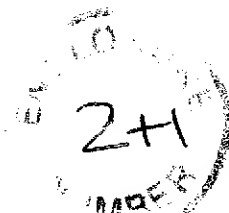


196/943  
CPI



Loose Minute

DI55/108/15

22nd January 1997

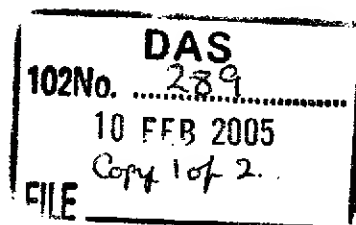
Sec (AS)2

**UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA**



References:

- A D/Sec(AS) 64/1 dated 14 January 1997
- B D/DI55/108/15 dated 11 December 1996
- C D/DI55/108/15 dated 16 November 1993



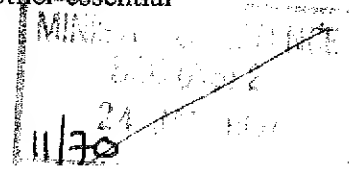
1. In reply to your letter at Reference A, there are several differences in the current tasking which I have received from [REDACTED] (as an internal DI55 formal note) at Reference B; compared with the work programme envisaged in the proposal at Reference C.

2. Whereas the 1993 proposal would have involved a fully funded [REDACTED] contract, and hence a formal contract amendment, the current tasking is that I should carry out some work (see para 4 below) within the constraints of an existing contract. This would be one of many tasks I undertake for the Department and which can be done under a current 3 year contract while the funds are present to do so. No extra money has been added to the contract for this purpose.

3. Historically, it is perhaps useful for you to know that, during 1995, subsequent to the unsuccessful 1993 initiative, the Department again attempted both in June and October to get approval for funding. The timing eventually clashed with the onset of Defence Study 18 and the requests were shelved. In the 1995 case the work would have been accommodated within an existing budget and undertaken by [REDACTED] as is the case now.

4. Now to the current situation. My remit is to build a new database from scratch - nevertheless, the whole task is summarised in just 4 subheadings of a sentence each. Thereafter to make a 'categorisation' or any possible explanation of the UAP events. As you can imagine, things are not quite as simple as this may sound.

5. My current progress, in the last few weeks, has been to read all of the 22 files held by the Department (although some I had seen previously, as occasionally my advice/opinion had been sought in the past). This was a pre-requisite, so as to scope the task. All files prior to 1975, having either been destroyed, or sent to the PRO, at least limits the events recorded to about 21 years. Working between other essential



[REDACTED]

and often urgent DI55 tasks, I have now started to set up the data base, having realised that a minimal database will not be adequate. For example, there is no point in having a database which just comprises a list/log of events in textual form, unless useful information can be easily extracted. Hence, my database structure, when complete, must allow investigative and statistical reports to be made. The tool chosen is a relational database which, if all goes according to plan, will be capable of providing material which should be of use in your answers to PQs and other correspondence.

6. Once the database format is finalised, new Event Reports will be entered as they come in, while there will be a continual lower-rate effort to get all the old reports for the last ~20 years entered. This is considered essential, so as to provide a good basis for any investigative work we might need in the future. As there are literally thousands of inputs to make, I am sure you realise that this part of the work will take many months to complete. I intend only to include UK reports made within the UK Air Defence Region (i.e. within the UKADGE area of responsibility).

7. There is, of course, the sensitivity of the matter in view of Press and Public interest. As you know, the actual sighting reports are all unclassified. I intend that the data tables are structured so that those containing witness names should be CONFIDENTIAL. This might enable the other material to be separated more easily for public disclosure, if so desired at some future date. If, as is the current trend, an 'electronic office' culture develops, the paper reports may diminish anyway. Therefore a move towards a properly structured electronically recorded system seems appropriate at this stage.

8. This leads to another important point, that of the current public UFO questionnaire format - which was 'invented' in the 1950's (I know because I filled one in myself after a sortie when flying in the RAF at the time). You will already be aware that a lot of effort goes into form design when a computerised data base is to be used. The current form, which leaves a lot to the initiative of the witness and reporting officer, could be replaced with a much simpler format. I envisage that much can be done with little narrative but mainly with ticked boxes and cryptic yes/no answers - I realise that it might be difficult to bring a new form into use without some media reporter or ufologist mis-interpretation! One can imagine .... 'MOD UFO Investigation Intensifies' ! You may wish to comment on this possibility?

9. Much of my present task will involve extracting the several (for database purposes) diverse bits of information that are often contained within a sentence which forms one answer on the present form. To do this effectively I shall have to examine every sheet, individually and extract the information and mark it up on paper copies of the new form for each table used in the database. My Secretary will then enter the data. It is the correlation of these individual elements of information within the total report with sources of external information I can construct in other tables (e.g. Space debris re-entry data, meteorological phenomena, location of power lines etc.), which will make the tool useful for evaluation and categorisation.

10. Finally, I wish to keep a low profile. As [REDACTED] one could imagine the embarrassment to [REDACTED] if my activities were [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

media knowledge - especially as they would undoubtedly soon link these with my other known activities on [REDACTED] and probably connect my long-standing involvement with DI55 - which we also wish to avoid. I note you have copied Reference A to ADGE1, which includes my name. I would not wish my name to be further linked with them because of my [REDACTED] links with that same organisation. I have a 50-60% weekly commitment to DI55, but this is not always in OWOB. The rest of the time is spent both nation and worldwide for [REDACTED] My Secretary, [REDACTED] always knows my whereabouts, should you need to make urgent contact when I am not in London. Please do not use the term UFO on the phone to this number, as it is operator-handled. [REDACTED] is, of course, cleared, and would understand the words PROJECT CONDIGN and relay any messages.

[REDACTED]

DI55 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)64/1

14th January 1997

DI55c - [REDACTED]

Copy to:

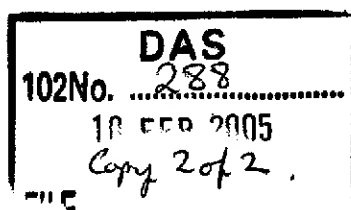
ADGE1

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA STUDY

Reference:

- A. D/DI55/108/15 dated 18th October 1993
- B. D/Sec(AS)12/1 dated 16th November 1993

1. [REDACTED] rang Sec(AS)2a recently to say that he was retiring and that in his absence you would be looking at the 'UFO' reports we routinely copy to DI55c. He also mentioned that you had been contracted to compile a database of reported 'sightings' and that, once compiled, you would go on to analyse the material.
2. I should be grateful if you could confirm that the work on compiling the database, which I believe is a fairly recent initiative, is that envisaged in the [REDACTED] contract amendment attached to Reference A (which was supported by my predecessor at Reference B).
3. The contract amendment sets out a number of issues to be addressed in the course of this work but mentions only a database and a report (it would be helpful to see a copy when produced). I am not, therefore, clear on the scope of the proposed analytical work and it would be helpful to have some more information on this aspect.
4. I should add that my concern is to ensure that the line taken when answering PQs and dealing with Ministerial and public correspondence about 'UFO' reports and associated phenomena accurately reflects the Department's position.



Sec(AS)2

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DIST/11/10

25 Apr 97

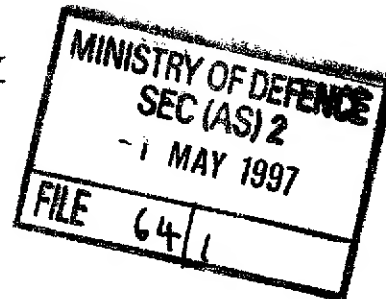
Sec(AS)2

Copy to:  
AOAD1  
PSO/ACAS  
DAO  
Hd Sec(AS)  
DI Sec  
DPR(RAF)  
AD/DI55

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) - POLICY

References

- A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 29 Jan 97
- B. D/DIST/11/10 dated 3 Feb 97
- C. D/DAO/1/13 dated 25 Mar 97
- D. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 2 Apr 97
- E. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 22 Apr 97



1. My apologies firstly for not responding sooner to your minutes at Ref. Unfortunately it took much longer than expected, at the time of my holding reply, to recover from a number of staff changes and to give the subject sufficient attention against other priorities. I am pleased that we should have this debate since at present there is a significant mismatch between our assumed responsibilities and our ability to resource them.

**Policy**

2. Referring to the policy stated in your initial minute (Ref A, Annex paras 1 & 2) an immediate difficulty arises over the use of the term 'UFO'. This term is discredited in some circles and I think that consistent use of UAP would be much more satisfactory. This would then avoid an immediate association with 'extraterrestrial' phenomena and the difficulty which arises in trying to distinguish whether events are 'extraterrestrial' or not, a judgement which we are strictly incapable of making. While analysis may enable MoD to identify some phenomena, those that remain are by definition 'unidentified' rather than 'extraterrestrial'.

3. You queried at Ref A, para 3a the extent of DIST interest in UFO reports. We agree that MoD's interest has to be related to defence significance but this is not solely to determine whether

[REDACTED]

the UK ADR is breached, as implied by the parenthetical text in your Annex, para 2. DIST's role in support of customer requirements is to assess all source intelligence on foreign weapon systems and science & technology with military relevance. We have the responsibility to decide which sources are most appropriate and how they should be weighted for assessments. We regard UAP as a source, akin in some respects to human reporting not least in that the phenomena are reported by people and may not be fully appreciated or understood at the time. This intelligence interest needs to be explicitly covered in the policy statement and we propose that your Annex, para 2 should read:

'MoD's interest in 'UAP' is limited to examining reported sightings to establish if such activity might have a defence significance, viz:

- a. whether the UKADR has been breached;
- b. what intelligence is revealed on military capabilities of other countries;
- c. whether scientific and technical information of military significance is revealed.'

#### Arrangements

4. Referring to your Annex, para 4, in the light of the above we do not consider that MoD can have no interest in extraterrestrial matters and needs to keep an open mind on whether 'unidentified' phenomena may have significance. Additionally the lack of evidence to date in the DIS on the extraterrestrial hypothesis has to reflect the fact that we have not carried out any analysis. Effectively the UAP source is unproven for DIST purposes, a situation of concern even if we never expect it to be as reliable or valuable as other sources. Two principles therefore arise:

#### Reports

5. Firstly DIST needs to continue to receive reports in order to make the judgements at para 3b and 3c above. It seems probable that only credible sources are likely to provide enough information for a substantive analysis and we are therefore prepared to constrain ourselves to receive reports in the categories at Ref D, para 2.

#### Analysis

6. Secondly DIST needs to have an adequate system in order to reference the information. In line with developing practices for other source intelligence we need a reliable system for the retention and analysis of data. Hitherto the paper records have been much too unwieldy for effective action leading to the failing noted above. The proposed filtering of reports will reduce the volume considerably and we need to take the opportunity to initiate a database now. How we do this remains to be decided. Our resources are heavily over-bid but it seems essential that we establish the database in order to reduce subsequent analysis effort to the minimum. The extent to which we incorporate retrospective reports into the database depends on the resource costs. At best we would aim to apply the proposed filters in order to reduce the task to manageable

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

proportions. Concurrently we have to decide whether it should be DIS policy to retain the other reports or rely on your own archive. I favour the latter. Once the database is established and populated we would commission a limited analysis to determine whether reports possess any intelligence, S&T value or discernible patterns (locations, features, performance) and establish the residue of significant unidentified events.

7. This requirement for a database needs to be considered alongside DAO's interests and we should aim to develop a single framework and decide how to share the responsibility for data entry.

**Action**

8. We therefore propose to:

- a. plan in conjunction with DAO and customers how to achieve the database;
- b. implement the plan, sharing resources if appropriate;
- c. conduct, in DIST, a limited analysis of events;
- d. review the situation once the database is accessible and no later than 12 months hence.

[REDACTED]

DIST

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DAS 102 Serial No. 295



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DIST/11/10 196/473  
(COPY)

4 December 2000

DCDI  
DG(R&T)  
ADGE  
IFS(RAF) (FS ATC)  
HQ MATO (OPS (LF) 1)  
AD/DI51

Copy to: AD/DI55

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) - DI55 REPORT

1. The DIS has received copies of UAP sighting reports from Sec(AS) for about 30 years. Until recently these have been filed with only a cursory look at the contents by DI55 to discover whether anything of intelligence value could be determined. However, it was obvious that any value from the sighting data could only be derived by carrying out a Study of a significant sample of the reports. Consequently, over the past 2 years DI55, under low priority tasking, has compiled a database of information taken from reports received between 1987 and 1997, and has carried out an analysis based on data statistics. A report is now available. With the exception of DG(R&T), who receives the full report, other addressees are being provided with the Executive Summary only, which details the main findings of the Study. Should you require the full report, or parts of it, contact details are given on page 3 of the Summary.

2. The main conclusion of the Study is that the sighting reports provide nothing of value to the DIS in our assessment of threat weapon systems. Taken together with other evidence, we believe that many of the sightings can be explained as: mis-reporting of man-made vehicles; natural but not unusual phenomena, and natural but relatively rare and not completely understood phenomena. It is for these reasons that we have taken the decision to do no further work on the subject and will no longer receive copies of sighting reports.



4. Although we intend to carry out no further work on the subject, we would value any comments you may wish to make on the report. Please direct such comments to AD/DI55. Finally, while most of the report is classified at only [REDACTED], we hardly need remind addressees of the media interest in this subject and consequently the sensitivity of the report. Please protect this subject

[REDACTED]

accordingly, and discuss the report only with those who have a need to know.

[REDACTED]

DI ST

[REDACTED]

Enclosure:

DCDI, IFS(RAF), HQ MATO, - Executive Summary

UKADGE - Executive Summary and Volume 3

DGR&T, ADI/55, ADI/51 - Executive Summary and Volumes 1,2 and 3



**FILE NOTE**

**CLEARANCE OF OUTSTANDING DOCUMENT FOR DR CLARKE'S FOI REQUEST**

D/Sec(AS) 12/1 Part A – UFO Policy

Enclosure 150 – Sec(AS) file note. Due to content, it has been discussed with **Section 40** **Section 40** DIST-GM OMS AD) who is content for release. Info-Records 1 (Successor to CS(RM)1) has also confirmed his contentment for release.

Enclosure 83 – DI55 document. Examined, downgraded and cleared for release by DIST-GM OMS AD.

Enclosure 70 - DI55 document. Examined, downgraded and cleared for release by DIST-GM OMS AD.

Enclosure 68 - DI55 document. Examined, downgraded and cleared for release by DIST-GM OMS AD.

Enclosure 32 - DI55 document. Examined, downgraded and cleared for release by DIST-GM OMS AD.

**Section 40**

DAS-FOI

**Section 40**

MB

19 August 2005



# FILE NOTE



25 Aug 95

D/Sec(AS)/12/1

## PUBLIC ACCESS TO "UFO" FILES

### Background

- In April we were asked by Hd CS(RM)1 to reconsider the requirement to delete the internal distribution lists from documents contained in our "UFO" files, when they are released into the public domain at the 30 year point. This note represents the combined thoughts of [REDACTED] and myself.

- My minute at Enc 138 set out the position to DI55c, and Enc 145/1 is DI55c's response. Essentially, the DI55 view is that as the existence of DI55 and the link to this subject has been in the public domain for a number of years (although never formally acknowledged), there would seem little point in denying their role any longer.

- In a subsequent conversation I had with Hd CS(RM)1 earlier this week, he told me that he has recently discovered that a number of "UFO" files which have been released to the Public Records Office have not been sanitized of the internal distribution (presumably by mistake). It would therefore appear that this information is in the public domain already. For us to insist on the continuation of the policy that the internal distribution list be withheld now would appear to the public to be a MOD "U" turn.

- Therefore we need to devise an appropriate line to describe the role of DI55 in connection with "UFO" reporting, once the "UFO fraternity" pick this up.

### DI55c's Role and Views

- In his minute at Enc 83 [REDACTED] stated that for some years DI55 have been under general remit to advise on "UAPs" but that due to lack of resources they have not been able to study the reports we send over to them, and the reports were merely glanced at and placed on file.

- [REDACTED] concluded that it was not possible to advise on the possible threat implications of "UAPs" unless some short study into the subject were conducted to determine whether there is any firm evidence that "UAPs" actually exist and if so whether they indeed pose any threat. He thought that the topic might be worthy of limited study - initially in the form of a review of the data held by DI55 - which would establish whether it was worthwhile devoting resources to conducting a more wide ranging study. In his note he said that it would not be possible to divert any of his officers to the study, but that one way of overcoming this would be to enlist the services of a contractor.

- He sought Sec(AS)'s support for the limited study and at E85 we confirmed that we were content with his proposals. We have heard nothing more about this proposed review of data and as far as I am aware nothing further has been done about it.

#### Sec(AS)2a Perspective

- From the tone of [REDACTED]'s note at E83 I do not get the impression that there is any urgency in the requirement, or any conviction that there is a real need for this assessment to be conducted.

- It is important that we use this opportunity to disabuse the "UFO fraternity" of the notion that DI55 receive copies of reports of unusual aerial activity to look exclusively for evidence of extraterrestrial activity which is of defence concern.

#### Proposal

- Suggest that we should not seek to hold the line on keeping DI55's 'involvement'/'role' out of the public domain; the revelations from CS Records on those files with unexpurgated references already in the public domain precludes this.

- If, however, we are to be open about the role of DI55, we need carefully to construct the description of that role. The "UFO lobby" will doubtless see in all this much to get excited about: cover ups; DI research and sinister implications thereof; a change in the Department's line, and speculation about what might have bought this about etc.

- As to the line; we don't think our current line needs much if any amendment. Reports are looked at by experts within the Department to establish whether what was seen represents anything of defence significance. DI55 [which generally do what?? check with [REDACTED]] is one such branch.

- On research we need to know what is already in the public domain on this. However, the truth is to our knowledge that no 'research' into the phenomena has been undertaken by MOD - by DI55 or anyone else. What DI55 are planning is to review existing data to determine whether any research is justified. But as this is yet to be established, and represents possible future plans, we are under no obligation to reveal the fact.

- Essentially, we don't do research into the phenomena; we haven't done any; we only would if there were some good reason for doing so - ie. evidence of a threat. It remains that case that no threat has been discerned which has been attributed to an unidentified flying object.

[REDACTED]

**PART 1 - REQUEST FOR DOWNGRADING OF PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS**

To: <b>Section 40</b> DIST-AM ALM AD <b>Section 40</b> Old War Office Building	From: <b>Section 40</b> DAS-FOI <b>Section 40</b> Main Building
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It is requested that authority be given for the downgrading of the documents listed overleaf. If downgrading is agreed, please state new classification in column (e); otherwise insert "No Change".

*These documents are the subject of an FOIA request*

Date 16/4/2005 Signature **Section 40**

**PART 2 - AUTHORITY TO DOWNGRADE PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS**

To: <b>Section 40</b> DAS-FOI <b>Section 40</b> Main Building Whitehall, London	From: <b>Section 40</b> DIST-AM ALM AD <b>Section 40</b> Old War Office Building
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Please note that the documents listed below should now be graded as shown in column (e)

Reference No (a)	Description (ie File, letter, report, etc) (b)	Date (c)	Present Classification (d)	Revised Classification (e)
D/DISS/108/15	LOOSE MINUTE	18/10/1993	SECRET UK EYES A	UNCLASSIFIED
D/DISS/108/15	LOOSE MINUTE Attachment 1	18/10/1993	SECRET UK EYES B	UNCLASSIFIED
	Title: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Study.			

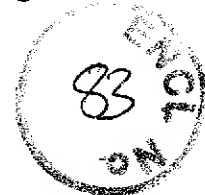
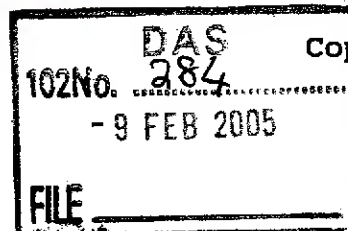
Date SAN 405 Signature **Section 40** Grade B2

UNCLASSIFIED  
SECRET UK EYES A

D/DI55/108/15

18 October 1993

Sec(AS)2



UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA STUDY

1. For some years we have had a general remit to advise on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) but have never been able to devote any effort except filing of reports. A cursory glance at the files indicates that over the years a large amount of data has been accumulated. We have never therefore established if UAP's exist and, if they do, whether or not they pose a defence threat to the UK. Some recent events, and a cursory examination of the files indicate that the topic may be worthy of a short study.

2. I am aware, from intelligence sources, that Russia believes that such phenomena exist and has a small team studying them. I am also aware that an informal group exists in the US intelligence community and it is possible that this reflects a more formal organisation.

3. It is probable that the vast majority of the reports on file have reasonable explanations, such as military aircraft, balloons, clouds, satellites and possibly stealth aircraft. However, there appear to be a residual number of reports that can not be so easily explained, and if true, may merit further study.

4. It is difficult to meet our remit of advising on possible threat implications since we have never studied the topic of UAP's. You will recall at a recent meeting with AD DI 55 that he was proposing an initial study of our files to determine the whether or we should apply any significant effort to the matter. Since we are unable to divert any of our desk officers or existing contractors to the study we propose to modify an existing long term contract and take on board another contractor. DI 55 have been using contractors, cleared to far higher levels than most intelligence staff, with complete success for many years. I believe that opening a new contract especially for this study and using competitive tendering would potentially expose the study to too wide an audience and thus we propose modifying an existing BAe contract. The manager is a former DIS officer and well known to DI 55. When the contract was last renewed we received a very competitive price and will obviously keep costs to a minimum. I am anticipating a man year of effort maximum at this time. Since a potential exists for political embarrassment the study and output will be graded SECRET UK EYES B.

5. I have attached a draft copy of the proposed amendment to

1  
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SECRET UK EYES A



**UNCLASSIFIED**  
~~SECRET UK EYES A~~

the contract. Although this study will be undertaken by the DIS, with due account of the sensitivities, I believe that I should seek your support for this limited study.

Section 40

Wing Commander  
DI55c  
OWOB

Section 40

Attachment:

1. Proposed Contract Amendment.

**UNCLASSIFIED**

SECRET  
UNCLASSIFIED

## ATTACHMENT 1

AMENDMENT DETAILS1. Item Numbers. Add:

"4. Provision of a degree level engineer, with a wide aerospace background, to prepare a Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) database and produce reports in accordance with the detailed technical requirements at Annex "B". The contractor will be located at the Old War Office and will require appropriate security screening. DI 55 will interview proposed candidates and provide required hardware and software.

2. New Annex B.

"1. This work package has 3 main elements, the production of a data base, the production of a report, and possible follow on activities as directed by DI 55. At present it is envisaged that the study will last for up to one year.

3. Data Base. The data base should contain the minimum following features:

- a. A discrete event number for each incident.
- b. Details of location(s), including any military or economic potential targets.
- c. Times and dates.
- d. Details of witnesses.
- e. Details of the event to include size, shape, colour, speed(s), noise, other effects such as effects on electronic equipment or ignition systems
- f. Any possible explanation, such as military exercises etc.
- g. A categorisation of the event as follows:
  - 1 - Probable NATO/civilian aircraft.
  2. - Probable space-based event such as meteor, re-entry vehicle or planet.
  3. - Probable hoax or publicity stunt.
  4. - Unidentified.

3 2. Report. The contractor is to read all available DI 55

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**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SECRET UK EYES B

reports, be aware of major UAP publications, and produce a report that will summarize the data. The contractor will specifically:

- a. Classify, types of UAP.
  - b. By examination of reported sightings/locations comment on possible explanations/missions.
  - c. By examination of reported sightings/locations comment on possible vehicle performance parameters.
  - d. Comment on any evidence for advanced technology and especially propulsion systems.
  - e. Comment on the possibility that any events are caused by devices other than vehicles operated by members of NATO.
  - f. Propose an improved UAP reporting format, if required.
  - g. Propose possible data collection methods, if required.
4. The work will be undertaken at the Old War Office Whitehall. All reports will initially be graded Secret unless otherwise instructed by DI 55.

There may be a long term requirement for additional studies post the production of the report and the data base.

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SECRET UK EYES B

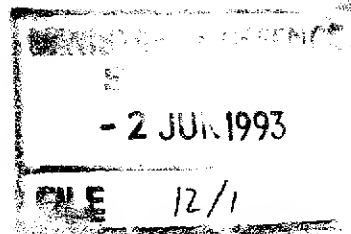
UNCLASSIFIED  
RESTRICTED

ENCL 70

D/DI55/108/15

1 June 1993

Sec(AS)2a



UFOs

1. You may be interested to hear that at long last I have had some funds allocated for serious UFO research. The study will include a review of our data, the construction of a data base, a detailed review of specified incidents and recommendations for the future. Needless to say we do not want this broadcast and it is for your information only.

2. I have heard that there is a conference at Sheffield Poly in August, I would be grateful if you have any further information.

Section 40

Wing Commander  
DI55c  
OWOB Section 40

Content to down grade  
to u/c  
D/DI55/108/15  
1 Jun 93.

Section 40

B2

D/DI55/108/15 1/6/93

5 Aug 05

UNCLASSIFIED  
RESTRICTED



**PART 1 - REQUEST FOR DOWNGRADING OF PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS**

To: <b>Section 40</b> DAS - FOI <b>Section 40</b> Main Building	From: <b>Section 40</b> DIST - AM ALM AD <b>Section 40</b> Old War Office Building
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*This document is the subject of a FOIA request.*

Date 5/4/2005 Signature **Section 40**

**PART 2 - AUTHORITY TO DOWNGRADE PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS**

To: <b>Section 40</b> DIST - AM ALM AD <b>Section 40</b> Old War Office Building	From: <b>Section 40</b> DAS - FOI <b>Section 40</b> Main Building
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Please note that the documents listed below should now be graded as shown in column (e)

Reference No (a)	Description (ie File, letter, report, etc) (b)	Date (c)	Present Classification (d)	Revised Classification (e)
D/DISS/108/15	LOOSE MINUTE	28/4/1993	RESTRICTED	UNCLASSIFIED

Date 5 AUG 05 Signature **Section 40** Grade B2

UNCLASSIFIED

D/DI55/108/15

28 April 1993

Sec(AS)2a

PUBLIC ACCESS TO UFO FILES

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)12/1 dated 29 Mar 93.

1. At reference you asked for my views on witness privacy and internal distribution lists for files about to be released under the 30 year rule.

2. Witness Protection. I see no reason why this information should be protected for longer than the normal 30 years.

3. Internal Distribution. This is a finely balance decision to make. Public acknowledgement of investigation of UFOs by an intelligence branch would lead many people to erroneous conclusions. Although DI 55 do not operate covertly we do not court publicity, and publicity could affect our main task. Some books have mentioned an association of DI 55 with UFO investigation but they have no real evidence of this and in any event I see no reason to confirm any link. On balance I believe that mention of AI(Tech) should be deleted.

Section 40

Wing Commander  
DI55c  
OWOB Section 40

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**PART 1 - REQUEST FOR DOWNGRADING OF PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS**

To: <b>Section 40</b> <b>DIST-AMLM-AD</b> <b>Section 40</b> <i>Old War Office Building</i>	From: <b>Section 40</b> <b>DAS-FOI</b> <b>Section 40</b> <i>Main Building</i>
---	--

It is requested that authority be given for the downgrading of the documents listed overleaf. If downgrading is agreed, please state new classification in column (e); otherwise insert "No Change".

*This document is the subject of a Freedom of Information request.*

Date *5/4/2005* Signature **Section 40**

**PART 2 - AUTHORITY TO DOWNGRADE PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS**

To: <b>Section 40</b> <b>DAS-FOI</b> <b>Section 40</b> <i>Main Building</i>	From: <b>Section 40</b> <b>DIST-AMLM AD</b> <b>Section 40</b> <i>Old War Office Building</i>
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Please note that the documents listed below should now be graded as shown in column (e)

Reference No (a)	Description (ie File, letter, report, etc) (b)	Date (c)	Present Classification (d)	Revised Classification (e)
DIS2/TMCK/1	LOOSE MINUTE	20/6/1991	CONFIDENTIAL	UNCLASSIFIED

Date *SAUac08* Signature **Section 40** Grade *62*

for info

File 12/1

E32

to Head ITAU

52

DI(ST)

Reference DI52/TMCK/1

Wednesday 19th June 1991

Report by Section 40 (DI52)

Arrived in my hotel room at approx 2305 and tuned in to Radio 1 "The Nicki Campbell Programme". I had heard last night (18th) that he was going to broadcast a "very controversial" interview regarding UFO's. It was due to start at 2230 so I've probably missed a lot!

The interview was with a Tim Good (I believe). He started expounding about his knowledge of UFO's and that 6 alien craft had arrived on our planet! He claimed that senior people in Whitehall and the states know of the reality of these events.

He said this was the "most sensitive area in the UK Intelligence field of all time". Sources had made him aware of MOD intelligence in Northumberland Avenue, and that there was a section DI55 working on this topic in a locked and guarded room No 801 (I think he said). He claimed that the facts relating to UFO's was classified 37 levels higher than Top Secret! Numerous references were made to an ex NASA physicist Bob Lassare. Apparently, alien craft had been studied, and their propulsion systems were so sophisticated technically that engineers had taken years to derive an understanding. Instantaneous motion. An ex astronaut (I think) Gordon Cooper had chased UFO's. There was video film of them in the Nevada desert. One planet he quoted where aliens had come from (37 light years away) was Zeta Reticuli. NORAD track such craft daily he claimed.

He claimed further that the states have a 'Black Budget' for such Projects - making it unaccountable to the senate.

STATIONARY

When asked if he believed George Bush had ever seen one of these "quarantined"? craft, he said he was sure that he had, as they were "available". Parts of his dialogue was linked to the Bible and spiritualism as a way of justifying the reality of such phenomena presumably. He mentioned ASC - alternative space craft. With that the interview ended.

Nicki Campbell asked listeners to phone in if they were interested to find out more. If response was good, he would try and set up a tele link with the states (one of his sources) tomorrow evening (20th).

I'm new to DI (4 weeks). I sat down and spent 30 mins considering what I should do. I didn't have any phone numbers to ring so decided to go to the office (by taxi) (I may put in a bill Ha). Couldn't find any next of kin lists for Section 40 or anyone else. Used Section 40 phone to make him aware of this (via his HOME Button!) This was at about 0005 I guess. He asked me to contact the Duty Officer in MB which I did. Rather than talk on the phone, I went across and told Sqn Ldr Section 40 the above. He didn't seem unduly concerned, but said he would pass the details over to the "day shift".

I can't vouch 100% for the accuracy of my recollections above, but took lots of notes throughout the programme so am reasonably confident about names and statements made. It's now 0150 - I'm tired. I should have listened to Radio 4 perhaps! Maybe not. Hope I did the right thing.

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Recommendations

I think it would be prudent to obtain a copy of the transcript of the interview, in order to verify/correct the foregoing for accuracy. I guess then its down to considering whether there is a justification for the security services to take the matter further in view of what has been broadcast.

Section 40



20/6/91

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**FILE NOTE**

**CLEARANCE OF OUTSTANDING DOCUMENT FOR DR CLARKE'S FOI REQUEST**

Request 2. – D/DIST/11/10 –LM entitled *UNIDENTIFIED PHENOMENA STUDY* dated 3 February 1997, DI55 document. Examined, downgraded and cleared for release by DIST-GM OMS AD.

Three associated papers: DI55/108/15 – LM entitled *UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA* dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1997, DI55 document. Examined, downgraded and cleared for release by DIST-GM OMS AD.

D/DIST/11/10 – LM entitled *UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) – POLICY* dated 25 April 1997, DI55 document. Examined, downgraded and cleared for release by DIST-GM OMS AD.

D/Sec(AS)64/1 – LM entitled *UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA STUDY* dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 1997, Sec(AS) document. Downgraded and cleared for release by myself.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

MB

19 August 2005



PART 1 - REQUEST FOR DOWNGRADING OF PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS

To: <b>Section 40</b> DIST-AMLM-AD <b>Section 40</b> Old War Office Building	From: <b>Section 40</b> DAS-FOI <b>Section 40</b> Main Building
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Date 5/14/2005 Signature **Section 40**

PART 2 - AUTHORITY TO DOWNGRADE PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS

To: <b>Section 40</b> DAS-FOI <b>Section 40</b> Main Building	From: <b>Section 40</b> DIST-AMLM-AD <b>Section 40</b> Old War Office
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Please note that the documents listed below should now be graded as shown in column (e)

Reference No (a)	Description (ie File, letter, report, etc) (b)	Date (c)	Present Classification (d)	Revised Classification (e)
D/DIST/11/10	LOOSE MINUTE	3/2/1997	SECRET	UNCLASSIFIED

Date 5 AUG 05 Signature **Section 40** Grade B2



Section 40

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI ST/11/10 - OUT 952.

3 Feb 97

Sec(AS)2

Copy to:  
DI P&R  
DISec  
AO/AD1

4/1  
Any commits -  
It answers to my  
when/for what  
questions would be  
helpful - any idea of  
the time when these  
commits apply to?

Section 40

5/2

**UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA STUDY**

Ref: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 27 Jan 97

1. Thank you for reference on the discussions on the possibility of a study into unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP). This is a holding reply, not least because Section 40 who is central to this matter, is on terminal leave from the RAF and not available to advise for some weeks. (U)

2. However I wish to point out now that reference to planned DI55 activity conveys too firm an impression. Section 40 had been investigating what might be achieved within our current resources prior to seeking any commitment. He had sought your views because in the past your branch had supported an (unsuccessful) application for additional resource to create an electronic database. The interest of your branch has also been evident from many occasions over the last 20 years when DI55 has responded to your short notice demands to undertake extensive manual searches of the current and very large paper-based UAP archive. (S)

3. In addition to your requirements we also consider there are several other parties who have an interest in the data as an intelligence source. However our ability to adequately exploit the data is severely constrained by lack of resources and the limitations of the paper based archive. While I rejected the specific application for additional resources mentioned above I remain concerned that we are not in a position to conduct intelligence assessment, which leads me to question whether there is any point in maintaining the archive. Once we have investigated further I would welcome a discussion over what the customer requirements are and whether we are resourced to meet them.

Section 40

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Section 40

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102No. 286
10 FEB 2005
Copy 1 of 2.

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11/80

Content to downgrade to u/c  
so long as we address concern  
of author to protect his name  
port company etc.

Section 40



**PART 1 - REQUEST FOR DOWNGRADING OF PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS**

To: <b>Section 40</b> DIST-AMLM-AD	From: <b>Section 40</b> DAS-FOI
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Date 5/4/2005 Signature **Section 40**

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DISS/108/15	LOOSE MINUTE	22/1/1997	SECRET	UNCLASSIFIED

Date 5 Aug 05 Signature **Section 40** Grade B2

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CPI

Loose Minute

DI55/108/15

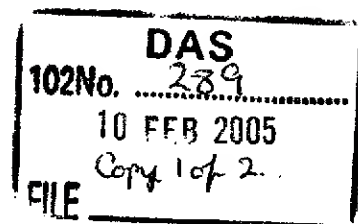
22nd January 1997

Sec (AS)2

### UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA

#### References:

- A. D/Sec(AS) 64/1 dated 14 January 1997
- B. D/DI55/108/15 dated 11 December 1996
- C. D/DI55/108/15 dated 16 November 1993



1. In reply to your letter at Reference A, there are several differences in the current tasking which I have received from **Section 40** (as an internal DI55 formal note) at Reference B; compared with the work programme envisaged in the proposal at Reference C.
2. Whereas the 1993 proposal would have involved a fully funded **Section 40** contract, and hence a formal contract amendment, the current tasking is that I should carry out some work (see para 4 below) within the constraints of an existing contract. This would be one of many tasks I undertake for the Department and which can be done under a current 3 year contract while the funds are present to do so. No extra money has been added to the contract for this purpose.
3. Historically, it is perhaps useful for you to know that, during 1995, subsequent to the unsuccessful 1993 initiative, the Department again attempted both in June and October to get approval for funding. The timing eventually clashed with the onset of Defence Study 18 and the requests were shelved. In the 1995 case the work would have been accommodated within an existing budget and undertaken by **Section 40** as is the case now.
4. Now to the current situation. My remit is to build a new database from scratch - nevertheless, the whole task is summarised in just 4 subheadings of a sentence each. Thereafter to make a 'categorisation' or any possible explanation of the UAP events. As you can imagine, things are not quite as simple as this may sound.
5. My current progress, in the last few weeks, has been to read all of the 22 files held by the Department (although some I had seen previously, as occasionally my advice/opinion had been sought in the past). This was a pre-requisite, so as to scope the task. All files prior to 1975, having either been destroyed, or sent to the PRO, at least limits the events recorded to about 21 years. Working between other essential

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
SEC(AS)2  
21 JAN 1997  
11/30

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and often urgent DI55 tasks, I have now started to set up the data base, having realised that a minimal database will not be adequate. For example, there is no point in having a database which just comprises a list/log of events in textual form, unless useful information can be easily extracted. Hence, my database structure, when complete, must allow investigative and statistical reports to be made. The tool chosen is a relational database which, if all goes according to plan, will be capable of providing material which should be of use in your answers to PQs and other correspondence.

6. Once the database format is finalised, new Event Reports will be entered as they come in, while there will be a continual lower-rate effort to get all the old reports for the last ~20 years entered. This is considered essential, so as to provide a good basis for any investigative work we might need in the future. As there are literally thousands of inputs to make, I am sure you realise that this part of the work will take many months to complete. I intend only to include UK reports made within the UK Air Defence Region (i.e. within the UKADGE area of responsibility).

7. There is, of course, the sensitivity of the matter in view of Press and Public interest. As you know, the actual sighting reports are all unclassified. I intend that the data tables are structured so that those containing witness names should be CONFIDENTIAL. This might enable the other material to be separated more easily for public disclosure, if so desired at some future date. If, as is the current trend, an 'electronic office' culture develops, the paper reports may diminish anyway. Therefore a move towards a properly structured electronically recorded system seems appropriate at this stage.

8. This leads to another important point, that of the current public UFO questionnaire format - which was 'invented' in the 1950's (I know because I filled one in myself after a sortie when flying in the RAF at the time). You will already be aware that a lot of effort goes into form design when a computerised data base is to be used. The current form, which leaves a lot to the initiative of the witness and reporting officer, could be replaced with a much simpler format. I envisage that much can be done with little narrative but mainly with ticked boxes and cryptic yes/no answers - I realise that it might be difficult to bring a new form into use without some media reporter or ufologist mis-interpretation! One can imagine .... 'MOD UFO Investigation Intensifies' ! You may wish to comment on this possibility?

9. Much of my present task will involve extracting the several (for database purposes) diverse bits of information that are often contained within a sentence which forms one answer on the present form. To do this effectively I shall have to examine every sheet, individually and extract the information and mark it up on paper copies of the new form for each table used in the database. My Secretary will then enter the data. It is the correlation of these individual elements of information within the total report with sources of external information I can construct in other tables (e.g. Space debris re-entry data, meteorological phenomena, location of power lines etc.), which will make the tool useful for evaluation and categorisation.

10. Finally, I wish to keep a low profile. As **Section 40** **Section 40** one could imagine the embarrassment to the **Section 40** my activities were

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media knowledge - especially as they would undoubtedly soon link these with my other known activities on Section 40 and probably connect my long-standing involvement with DI55 - which we also wish to avoid. I note you have copied Reference A to ADGE1, which includes my name. I would not wish my name to be further linked with them because of my Section 40 links with that same organisation. I have a 50-60% weekly commitment to DI55, but this is not always in OWOB. The rest of the time is spent both nation and worldwide for Section 40. My Secretary, Section 40 always knows my whereabouts, should you need to make urgent contact when I am not in London. Please do not use the term UFO on the phone to this number, as it is operator-handled. Section 40 is, of course, cleared, and would understand the words PROJECT CONDIGN and relay any messages.

Section 40

DI55 Section 40

Section 40

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**PART 1 - REQUEST FOR DOWNGRADING OF PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS**

To: <b>Section 40</b> DIST-AMLM AD	From: <b>Section 40</b> DAS-FOI
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Date 5/4/2005 Signature **Section 40**

**PART 2 - AUTHORITY TO DOWNGRADE PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS**

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D/DIST/11/10	LOOSE MINUTE	25/4/1997	CONFIDENTIAL	UNCLASSIFIED

Date 5 AUG 05 Signature **Section 40** Grade B2

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DIST/11/10

25 Apr 97

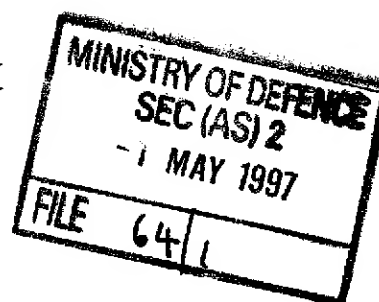
Sec(AS)2

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DAO  
Hd Sec(AS)  
DI Sec  
DPR(RAF)  
AD/DI55

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) - POLICY

## References

- A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 29 Jan 97
- B. D/DIST/11/10 dated 3 Feb 97
- C. D/DAO/1/13 dated 25 Mar 97
- D. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 2 Apr 97
- E. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 22 Apr 97



1. My apologies firstly for not responding sooner to your minutes at Ref. Unfortunately it took much longer than expected, at the time of my holding reply, to recover from a number of staff changes and to give the subject sufficient attention against other priorities. I am pleased that we should have this debate since at present there is a significant mismatch between our assumed responsibilities and our ability to resource them.

**Policy**

2. Referring to the policy stated in your initial minute (Ref A, Annex paras 1 & 2) an immediate difficulty arises over the use of the term 'UFO'. This term is discredited in some circles and I think that consistent use of UAP would be much more satisfactory. This would then avoid an immediate association with 'extraterrestrial' phenomena and the difficulty which arises in trying to distinguish whether events are 'extraterrestrial' or not, a judgement which we are strictly incapable of making. While analysis may enable MoD to identify some phenomena, those that remain are by definition 'unidentified' rather than 'extraterrestrial'.

3. You queried at Ref A, para 3a the extent of DIST interest in UFO reports. We agree that MoD's interest has to be related to defence significance but this is not solely to determine whether

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the UK ADR is breached, as implied by the parenthetical text in your Annex, para 2. DIST's role in support of customer requirements is to assess all source intelligence on foreign weapon systems and science & technology with military relevance. We have the responsibility to decide which sources are most appropriate and how they should be weighted for assessments. We regard UAP as a source, akin in some respects to human reporting not least in that the phenomena are reported by people and may not be fully appreciated or understood at the time. This intelligence interest needs to be explicitly covered in the policy statement and we propose that your Annex, para 2 should read:

'MoD's interest in 'UAP' is limited to examining reported sightings to establish if such activity might have a defence significance, viz:

- a. whether the UKADR has been breached;
- b. what intelligence is revealed on military capabilities of other countries;
- c. whether scientific and technical information of military significance is revealed.'

#### **Arrangements**

4. Referring to your Annex, para 4, in the light of the above we do not consider that MoD can have no interest in extraterrestrial matters and needs to keep an open mind on whether 'unidentified' phenomena may have significance. Additionally the lack of evidence to date in the DIS on the extraterrestrial hypothesis has to reflect the fact that we have not carried out any analysis. Effectively the UAP source is unproven for DIST purposes, a situation of concern even if we never expect it to be as reliable or valuable as other sources. Two principles therefore arise:

#### **Reports**

5. Firstly DIST needs to continue to receive reports in order to make the judgements at para 3b and 3c above. It seems probable that only credible sources are likely to provide enough information for a substantive analysis and we are therefore prepared to constrain ourselves to receive reports in the categories at Ref D, para 2.

#### **Analysis**

6. Secondly DIST needs to have an adequate system in order to reference the information. In line with developing practices for other source intelligence we need a reliable system for the retention and analysis of data. Hitherto the paper records have been much too unwieldy for effective action leading to the failing noted above. The proposed filtering of reports will reduce the volume considerably and we need to take the opportunity to initiate a database now. How we do this remains to be decided. Our resources are heavily over-bid but it seems essential that we establish the database in order to reduce subsequent analysis effort to the minimum. The extent to which we incorporate retrospective reports into the database depends on the resource costs. At best we would aim to apply the proposed filters in order to reduce the task to manageable

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proportions. Concurrently we have to decide whether it should be DIS policy to retain the other reports or rely on your own archive. I favour the latter. Once the database is established and populated we would commission a limited analysis to determine whether reports possess any intelligence, S&T value or discernible patterns (locations, features, performance) and establish the residue of significant unidentified events.

7. This requirement for a database needs to be considered alongside DAO's interests and we should aim to develop a single framework and decide how to share the responsibility for data entry.

#### **Action**

8. We therefore propose to:

- a. plan in conjunction with DAO and customers how to achieve the database;
- b. implement the plan, sharing resources if appropriate;
- c. conduct, in DIST, a limited analysis of events;
- d. review the situation once the database is accessible and no later than 12 months hence.

Section 40

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**PART 2 - AUTHORITY TO DOWNGRADE PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS**

To: <b>Section 40</b> DAS-FOI	From: <b>Section 40</b> DIST-AMLM-AD
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Reference No (a)	Description (ie File, letter, report, etc) (b)	Date (c)	Present Classification (d)	Revised Classification (e)
D/DIST/11/10	LOOSE MINUTE	4/12/2000	SECRET UK EYES ONLY	UNCLASSIFIED

Date SAUG 08 Signature **Section 40** Grade B2

MOD Form 171  
(Revised 2/96)

**PART 1 - REQUEST FOR DOWNGRADING OF PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS**

To: <b>Section 40</b> DIST-AMLM AD <b>Section 40</b> Old War Office Building	From: <b>Section 40</b> DAS-FOI <b>Section 40</b> Main Building
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These documents are the subject of a Freedom of Information request

Date 5/4/2005 Signature **Section 40**



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Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)64/1

14th January 1997

DI55c - Section 40

*Sent  
to DI  
for advice*

Copy to:

ADGE1

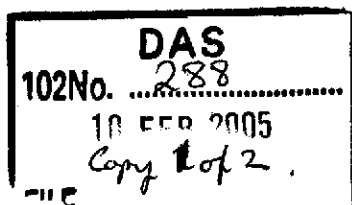
UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA STUDY

Reference:

- A. D/DI55/108/15 dated 18th October 1993
- B. D/Sec(AS)12/1 dated 16th November 1993

1. Section 40 rang Sec(AS)2a recently to say that he was retiring and that in his absence you would be looking at the 'UFO' reports we routinely copy to DI55c. He also mentioned that you had been contracted to compile a database of reported 'sightings' and that, once compiled, you would go on to analyse the material.
2. I should be grateful if you could confirm that the work on compiling the database, which I believe is a fairly recent initiative, is that envisaged in the Section 40 contract amendment attached to Reference A (which was supported by my predecessor at Reference B).
3. The contract amendment sets out a number of issues to be addressed in the course of this work but mentions only a database and a report (it would be helpful to see a copy when produced). I am not, therefore, clear on the scope of the proposed analytical work and it would be helpful to have some more information on this aspect.
4. I should add that my concern is to ensure that the line taken when answering PQs and dealing with Ministerial and public correspondence about 'UFO' reports and associated phenomena accurately reflects the Department's position.

Section 40



Sec(AS)2

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**FILE NOTE**

**CLEARANCE OF OUTSTANDING DOCUMENTS FROM DR CLARKE'S FOI REQUEST**

**Request No.3**

DI55 decision to no longer receive UFO reports. D/DIST/11/10 dated 4 December 2000. Examined and cleared for release by **Section 40** (DIST-GM OMS AD)

**Section 40**

*suggested the removal of paragraph 3.*



**PART 2 - AUTHORITY TO DOWNGRADE PROTECTIVELY MARKED DOCUMENTS**

To: <b>Section 40</b> DAS-FOI	From: <b>Section 40</b> DAS-Sec AD
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Reference No (a)	Description (ie File, letter, report, etc) (b)	Date (c)	Present Classification (d)	Revised Classification (e)
D/sec(AS) 64/1	LOOSE MINUTE	22/4/1997	RESTRICTED	

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

MOD Form 171  
(Revised 2/96)

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To: <b>Section 40</b> DAS-Sec AD	From: <b>Section 40</b> DAS-FOI
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*This document is the subject of a Freedom of Information request and needs to be downgraded to unclassified before release*

Date *12/4/2005* Signature **Section 40**



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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DIST/11/10 196/H73  
(COPY)

4 December 2000

DCDI  
DG(R&T)  
ADGE  
IFS(RAF) (FS ATC)  
HQ MATO (OPS (LF) 1)  
AD/DI51

Copy to: AD/DI55

Dr C.

Req. No. 3.

with DIS for downgrading

NOT GIVEN TO

DR C. YET (25/4/00)

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) - DI55 REPORT

1. The DIS has received copies of UAP sighting reports from Sec(AS) for about 30 years. Until recently these have been filed with only a cursory look at the contents by DI55 to discover whether anything of intelligence value could be determined. However, it was obvious that any value from the sighting data could only be derived by carrying out a Study of a significant sample of the reports. Consequently, over the past 2 years DI55, under low priority tasking, has compiled a database of information taken from reports received between 1987 and 1997, and has carried out an analysis based on data statistics. A report is now available. With the exception of DG(R&T), who receives the full report, other addressees are being provided with the Executive Summary only, which details the main findings of the Study. Should you require the full report, or parts of it, contact details are given on page 3 of the Summary.

2. The main conclusion of the Study is that the sighting reports provide nothing of value to the DIS in our assessment of threat weapon systems. Taken together with other evidence, we believe that many of the sightings can be explained as: mis-reporting of man-made vehicles; natural but not unusual phenomena, and natural but relatively rare and not completely understood phenomena. It is for these reasons that we have taken the decision to do no further work on the subject and will no longer receive copies of sighting reports.

3. In addition to this major conclusion, however, the study produced subsidiary findings which will be of interest to addressees. The potential explanations of UAP sightings, the characteristics of natural atmospheric phenomena and the consequences of sightings from aircraft will be of interest to those responsible for flight safety.

**Section 26**

4. Although we intend to carry out no further work on the subject, we would value any comments you may wish to make on the report. Please direct such comments to AD/DI55. Finally, while most of the report is classified at only RESTRICTED UKEO, we hardly need remind addressees of the media interest in this subject and consequently the sensitivity of the report. Please protect this subject

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accordingly, and discuss the report only with those who have a need to know.

PC  
Section 40

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Section 40

Enclosure:

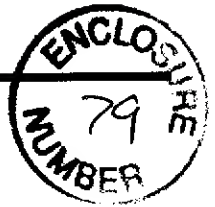
DCDI, IFS(RAF), HQ MATO, - Executive Summary

UKADGE – Executive Summary and Volume 3

DGR&T, ADI/55, ADI/51 – Executive Summary and Volumes 1,2 and 3

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SECRET OR EYES ONLY

Section 40



From: david.clarke@Section 40  
Sent: 04 August 2005 13:23  
To: Section 40  
Subject: Re: Freedom of Information Request

Importance: High

4 August 2005

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your email and letter of 21 July in response to my Freedom of Information requests.

The material arrived early last week and I was grateful for the trouble you took in answering the questions posted in two earlier email messages.

The outstanding matters now relate to material from my 19 January and 17 June requests which have been with-held subject to consultation with other departments and/or subject to authority to downgrade information for release.

My records indicative that from my 19 January request this includes:

- 1) from file D/Sec(AS)12/1 Pt A - UFO Policy one enclosure subject to consultation with another department and 7 enclosures which are classified documents "withheld subject to authority to downgrade..for release" ✓
- 2) 4 papers including D/DIST/11/10 dated 3 February 1997 relating to UFO policy matters also awaiting downgrade from classified status. ✓
- 3) DIST letter dated 4 December 2000 detailing reasons for decision to no longer received UFO reports from DAS - also awaitng downgrade for release. ✓

From my 17 June request:

- 4) Copy of DI55 UFO policy file D/DI55.108.15 Pt 4, passed to DI55 so far without response. ✓

I note with reference to outstanding requests 1-3 that in your email dated 17 March you indicated that the person dealing with the release had returned from holiday and "he believes that most of (if not all) the information...could be released" and therefore I should receive most of the information before Easter.

It is now over 6 months since my original request (19 January) and I wonder if you could provide an update on progress with these requests and if possible a date by which I should expect to receive the outstanding material.

Two small points in reply to your letter of 21 July:

Point 3 in your letter relating to my request for copies from file HdS4(Air)/BF 82 re the House of Lords Debate. The copies you supplied were the ones I was seeking and I do not wish to request any further material from this file. Is it reasonable to assume that file HdS4(Air)/BF 82 and D/DS8/25/3 Pt A - UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence 1977-78 (your point 4) will be among the files offered to TNA when the next transfer of documents takes place?  
Do you have a date when the next collection is likely to occur?

Finally, I understand from one of the responses to questions on the MoD FOI Reading Room that the Information Commissioner has recently approved an application to open two new classes of information on UFOs in the Publication Scheme. Am I correct in presuming these classes will include a) your UFO database and b) the file on the 1993 Cosford incident?

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

21 Mar 97

SEC(AS)2

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS

DAO

DI ST

Head of Sec(AS)

DI Sec

AD/DI55

DPR(RAF) [REDACTED] 27/3

Section 40

Section 40

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO) POLICY

References:

- A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 14 Mar 97.
- B. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 29 Jan 97.

1. Thank you for your letter at Reference A reminding of the need to make progress on future handling of UFO reports against a background of increasing public interest and therefore workload. You ask what might be required insofar as air defence interests are concerned.
2. Following your earlier letter at Reference B, you will recall our discussion of the topic. My views are unchanged. We have no direct air defence interest in UFO reports unless there is intelligence, reliable sighting or evidence that UK national airspace, or the UKADR, may be, or has been, penetrated by aircraft of potentially hostile powers without authorisation. Orbiting satellites are accounted separately and appropriate COMSEC implemented.
3. A majority of UFO reports are tenuous in nature, are reported at second hand or with a time lag, and frequently overland or at night in areas where we have little radar cover. Those described as at great height, if they exist, may lie above radar cover, as only Fylingdales has tracking capabilities in the endo-atmosphere and in space. Some reports describe objects in terms of manoeuvre, speed and shape which lie beyond our engineering knowledge and that which could be reasonably expected from hostile powers.
4. There is considerable difficulty, therefore, in assessing and prioritising these reports sufficiently quickly to provide, where warranted, an active response. Moreover, when interceptions may be needed, we are constrained by reduced readiness following drawdowns at the end of the Cold War and the considerable time lag in responding from northern bases in the event of incidents in the south, especially if access is needed to intensively used civil

airspace. Inevitably, interceptions are infrequently attempted against knowledge that, in the present benign environment, most sightings are unlikely to be associated with threatening activity.

5. I would emphasise that such sightings have been few and far between, with only Russia among potentially hostile powers being capable of penetrating UK airspace at very high altitudes; while no hostile power could reasonably be responsible for low level sightings, because of the range or political risk involved, except in the context of large civil register aircraft diverting from flight plans (where we have had incidents).

6. Staffing UFO matters, however, is a time consuming concern. As you are painfully aware, reported sightings are frequently explored in the public domain, often by organised societies, seeking extra-terrestrial explanations. Whilst using best judgement at the time, we are sometimes left accounting for the inexplicable or investing large numbers of man hours to establish rational explanations (as recently in the "Skegness sighting" when the Service's professional competence was called into question in an MP's letter to the Sofs). These frustrations are compounded by supporting PQs of the sort "... on how many occasions have ..." which require paper searches of long put down records. Neither do explanations that "the cost of the search cannot be justified" satisfy the public, for it only re-inforces their conviction that if the truth cannot be found out there, it is certainly available in the MOD. The MOD may eventually be caught out by cross referring to previous answers and other information, cherished on PCs and exchanged on "the web". The consequences are further questions and ever greater care and time taken to ensure that we do not contradict ourselves.

7. The problem is unlikely to subside especially as the US brings into service over the next decade high flying capabilities such as Global Star, Dark Star, the X-33 and, should it come to fruition, the manned spaceplane. Other nations will follow, especially with UAVs, which may permit risk taking in unauthorised penetrations of airspace. Activities of these sorts would clearly require monitoring and control by the MOD.

8. The extra-terrestrial business is also likely to boom, exacerbating the staffing problem. Continuing discoveries of planets, and emerging knowledge of circumstances needed for at least non-intelligent life, lead to speculation that planets and life may commonly occur. With that change of perception, arguing that our rock alone is a teeming and verdant speck in a vast and sterile nothingness may soon be as unrewarding as the Church once found in continuing to enforce the idea that the world was flat; more so, with the knowledge that many suns are older than our own, and perhaps provide conditions for advanced evolution. Even though some experts argue very low probabilities for intelligent life, and allowing for barely imagined transit distances, requiring unknown uses of physics, we cannot rule out entirely the idea of extra-terrestrial observation/visitation, either covert or overt. Our current policy to retain an open mind on these matters is therefore probably correct.

9. It is a fine judgement whether UFO sightings are MOD matters, or Government responsibilities best located with other agencies given the unproven nature of a vast majority of reports. I

believe they should continue to be managed in the MOD because of inevitable inter-weaving of terrestrial sightings, some of military origin, with extra-terrestrial pre-occupations. Moreover, any future concerns, terrestrial or extra-terrestrial, are likely to require national or international co-ordination responsive only within security alliances.


10. Whether we should set aside for further examination outside the MOD unexplained phenomena, I leave others to decide, knowing that political, scientific and cost judgements are associated with their investigation. I am not wholly convinced, however, that covert investigations would be the best way forwards. When inevitably discovered, they lead to mistaken ideas that "contact has been made" or that "government is worried, knowing something we don't." Should we decide regularly to investigate UFO reports, then we might look at how the US has handled some aspects with, for example, the targeted search of deep space for artificial signals which attracts little public speculation. The downside, of course, is "Roswell" with plastic kits as visible proof of alien capture and reverse engineering. What are US reporting and investigation practices?

11. The UK air defence interest is primarily to automate reporting, handling and administration of incidents so that operators, infrequently switching their busy routines to consider unlikely phenomena, react in a focused and consistent way. Reaction and reporting needs for UFOs are similar to those practices necessary for handling flight safety incidents, and potentially we could mimic them. However, a computer based system is needed to support accurate handling and recording of incidents, and to allow easy extraction of historical data for parliamentary response or retrospective study. Such a system is not, per se, an air defence requirement.

12. We therefore differ in view over responsibilities, organisation and funding. These matters are not for the air defence forces alone to consider, or to utilise the output from. Public reporting of phenomena is essentially government business to which we contribute infrequently when there are matters of direct air defence interest and, on other occasions, to exclude known air movements. As always, when tasked to respond, we do so to the best of our abilities. However, PQs that ask what similarities we have found between recent incidents and those of years ago, or to count them, leave us embroiled in dusty paperchases or in making retrospective assessments of incidents when we are not fully expert.

13. My response has turned out longer than I had intended, but hopefully lays the issues fully on the table as we see them. The policy is fine, how we manage public enquiries probably needs some re-consideration, also whether we need to fund investigation of a minority of incidents which may be inexplicable; above all, we need an electronic database and management system against which

sightings may be uniformly handled and recorded. If nothing else, we owe successors an easily extracted historic record.



AOAD1






From: **Section 40**

**Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

**5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB**



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das-ufo-office@mod.uk

**Section 40**

Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**

Your Reference

Our Reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11

Date  
21 July 2005

Dear Dr Clarke

I am writing in response to your two e-mail messages of 17<sup>th</sup> June in which you asked some questions about the contents of D/Sec(AS)12/1 Part A, and made a further Freedom of Information request. I apologise for the delay in sending a substantive reply.

First I will address your questions. For ease of reference I will number these replies in the same order as your letters.

1. When releasing information it is at the discretion of government departments whether they wish to remove the names of officials who work within the department.

Generally this is considered on a case by case bases and may depend on such factors as the sensitivities of the area they work in, whether their name is already in the public domain and the age of the documents. Our duties to the individual to protect their personal information has also to be considered. MOD has been developing policies on all aspects of the release of information over the last few years in preparation for the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act and in these early months of FOI this continues to evolve. While the release of information will always be considered on a case by case basis, it has recently been decided that the names of officials will not be redacted from copies of released documents in the future unless there would, for example, be harm caused to the individual by releasing this data. With regard to the Rendlesham papers, the incident and many of the records were already 20 years old at the time of release and it was not considered necessary to remove these details.

2. Science 3(RAF) no longer exists. We have located a copy of the MOD telephone directory for the period which shows that this branch was part of the Assistant Chief Scientist (Personnel) (RAF) and their duties are described as "RAF Selection, training, manpower modelling, flight safety, air traffic services, and social factors affecting recruitment and retention of RAF personnel." Searches of the archive database have not identified any surviving UFO records from this department still held by the MOD.

3. I understand that in 1967 it was decided to preserve records of UFO reports because of the increased public interest in the subject. However, there are no policy records for this period still held by the MOD so it is not clear whether it was intended to include only UFO reports (not policy, correspondence or parliamentary business) or all records about UFOs. We know of no formal agreement with The National Archives that they would accept any of these records indefinitely. During our work to identify and locate all the surviving records held by the MOD on UFOs it has become clear that a number of files have been destroyed and I suspect this may be

because different incumbents of the branches within the MOD who were responsible for these records have used their judgement as to which files to preserve and this has inevitably lead to the destruction of some records. In recent years, with the introduction of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information and now, the Freedom of Information Act, there has been a change in the type of correspondence we receive, from people wishing to tell us about their sightings, to requests for information held by the MOD. In response to this we have tried to preserve everything we can on the subject and Section 40 and his staff look out for any UFO related documents when reviewing MOD files. As requested, attached at Annex A is a list of UFO related files which are known to have been destroyed.

Moving on to your request for information.

1a&b). File D/DS8/10/209 Part E (General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence, Reports) was opened on 2 November 1982 and closed on 10 May 1983. The file contains four letters from Ms Randles and some associated correspondence. None of these letters refer to a meeting at MOD Main Building in August 1983 and there is no other relevant information on this file. As Ms Randles has provided her permission for the release to yourself of copies of her correspondence, I have enclosed these for your information.

File D/DS8/10/209/1 Part A (General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence-Reports) was opened on 6 May 1983 and closed on 23 October 1983. This file contains no correspondence with Ms Randles, or any reference to a meeting at MOD Main Building in August 1983.

In addition to the files you mentioned I have also asked the department responsible for air Defence matters to search D/DD Ops(GE)10/8 Part K (Admin & General, UFOs) for any relevant information. This file was opened on 11 January 1983 and closed on 27 June 1983. The file contains no papers about a meeting in August 1983. There is however, correspondence between Section 40 and Ops(GE)(RAF) in March 1983 concerning radar at the time of the Rendlesham incident. This was not a pre-meeting briefing, but followed a letter from Ms Randles dated 28 February 1983 in which she claimed there was "evidence of radar tracking". I am not sure if this is relevant to your request, but I have enclosed copies of these documents for your information.

As D/DS8/10/209 Part E was closed in May 1983, I have also examined D/DS8/10/209 Part F (General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence). This part was opened on 10 May 1983 and closed on 22 February 1984. This file contains only one letter from Ms Randles dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 1983 which makes no mention of a meeting and there are no other relevant papers on this file. A copy of Ms Randles letter and Section 40 reply is enclosed.

These files consist of all the known surviving UFO files available for this period. I can therefore only conclude that there are no surviving papers relating to the meeting with Ms Randles.

2. Your request for a copy of D/DI55/108/15 Part 4 (UFO Policy 1996) has been passed to DI55. I have yet to have a response, but I will hasten them on your behalf.

3. Please find enclosed the two documents from file Hd S4(Air)/BF 82 which I informed you about in my e-mail of 21 June 2005. You also made a further request for a copy of a signal from the British Defence Staff (Air) in Washington dated 19 August 1976 from this file. I can inform you that this file was not opened until 13 July 1978 and does not contain a copy of the signal. You may wish to be aware that UFO files for 1976 are already open at The National Archives. With regard to the remaining papers in this file, it is impossible to say whether you have already had copies of all the documents without examining every page (the file contains more than 250 pages) and trying to match them with the large amount of information you have been sent in response to



your previous requests. Such an exercise would be extremely time consuming and likely to exceed the time permitted in accordance with the FOIA. However, if there is something in particular you are seeking, I will see if this is amongst these papers.

4. Please find enclosed copies of correspondence between US of S (RAF) and Nicholas Edwards MP in June 1977 concerning a letter from **Section 40** of the **Section 40**

**Section 40** I can confirm that the Community Relations Officer at nearby RAF Brawdy was asked to visit **Section 40** and details of this are also enclosed. A few details have been removed as these are personal to **Section 40** and another member of the public. There is no evidence that the Provost and Security Service Flying Complaints Flight was asked to make inquiries into these events.

I hope this is helpful. I will hasten DIS for the outstanding papers from both this and your earlier request and will contact you about these again as soon as possible. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

**Section 40**

Questions.

Para 3.

## ANNEX A



File Reference	Period of contents	Title	File destroyed
AF/X58/64 Part 1	1968 (Last enclosure 22.2.1968)	UFO Policy & Policy Statements	16.3.1990
AF/X58/64 Part 2	1970 (Last enclosure 31.2.1970)	UFO Policy & Policy Statements	15.3.1990
AF/1505 Part 2	1970 (Last enclosure 1.7.1970)	Parliamentary Enquiries on UFOs – Prime Minister's Folders <b>Section 40</b>	15.3.1990
D/DS8/75/2/1/1 Part I	1978 (Last enclosure 11.1.1978)	UFOs – Reports & Correspondence- <b>Section 40</b>	19.3.1990
D/DS8/75/2/1 Part D	1978 (Last enclosure 25.8.1978)	UFO Reports & Correspondence	19.3.1990
D/DS8/75/2/1 Part E	1978-79 (Last enclosure 10.1.1979)	UFO Reports & Correspondence	19.3.1990
D/DS8/75/3/1 Part A	1979 (Last enclosure 15.1.1979)	UFO Parliamentary Correspondence – House of Lords Debate- January 1979	22.3.1990
D/DS8/75/3/1 Part B	1979 (Last enclosure 15.2.1979)	UFO Parliamentary Correspondence – House of Lords Debate – January 1979	22.3.1990
D/DS8/75/1 Part A	1979 (Last enclosure 18.1.1979)	UFO Policy Statements	16.3.1990
D/DS8/75/3 Part B	1979 (Last enclosure 25.1.1979)	UFO Parliamentary Correspondence	20.3.1990
D/DS8/76/2/4 Part C	1979 (Last enclosure 24.9.1979)	UFO Reports (June-October 1979)	22.3.1990
D/DS8/75/1 Part B	1979 (Last enclosure 4.12.1979)	UFO Policy Statements	20.3.1990
D/DS8/75/5	Not known	UFO- Solar Satellite Power Station	19.3.1990

D/DS8/75/3 Part C	1982 (Last enclosure 11.2.1982)	UFO Parliamentary Correspondence	22.3.1990
D/DS8/75/2/1 Part J	1982 (Last enclosure 12.2.1982)	UFO Correspondence	26.3.1990
D/DS8/10/209 Part H	1984 (Last enclosure 24.12.1984)	General briefs & reports, UFO Correspondence	26.3.1990
D/Air Def/111/6/4 Part A	1988 (Last enclosure 9.4.1988)	Command, Control, Communication & Information – Air Traffic Control – Low Flying UFOs	15.11.1989
D/Air Def/111/6/4 Part B	1988 (Last enclosure 2.8.1988)	Command, Control, Communication & Information – Air Traffic Control – Low Flying UFOs	2.8.1988
D/Air Def/111/6/4 Part C	1989 (Last enclosure 27.1.1989)	Command, Control, Communication & Information – Air Traffic Control – Low Flying UFOs	15.11.1989
D/Air Def/111/6/4 Part D	1989 (Last enclosure 17.10.1989)	Command, Control, Communication & Information – Air Traffic Control – Low Flying UFOs	26.11.1989
D/Air Def/111/6/4 Part E	1990	Command, Control, Communication & Information – Air Traffic Control – Low Flying UFOs	26.11.1991

Request - Para (a+b)

Copied from  
D/OS8/10/209 - Part E  
General briefs & Reports  
- UFO Correspondence.

(DEFE 24/15/6)



E1751/

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
D.S.8  
- 9 MAY 1983  
FILE:

Jenny Randles  
Section 40

May 6 1983

Dear Section 40

This is just a further line regarding the incident in Rendlesham Forest, adjacent to the Woodbridge air base, in December 1980. I wanted to keep you advised of the present situation.

Your last letter to me confirmed that 'lights' were seen in the vicinity, but that no reports referent to 'aliens' were involved. I take it that it might be possible to have the relevant file information released, in the way that you have sent me 'sanitized' versions of a couple of 1982 reports? This would certainly be of very great value in this ongoing research.

I should advise that a book is being written about this matter. I am not the actual author, but I am giving whatever information I can to its production. This I do because I think the incident is of interest and public concern, and because you have given me no reason to think that the book would not be in the public's best interests. Were I to be made aware that the book might compromise or contravene the security or defence interests of this country, in any way, then I would naturally not be in support of it. Could I ask you directly about that point? In other words, could you assure me that the Ministry see no reason why a book which discusses the basis of the story (all the numerous reports from civilian and military personnel and the more substantive data) would be prejudicial? I can in turn assure you that it is not being prepared as a 'cover-up' or 'the earth is being invaded' mouthpiece. It will instead simply relate the claimed facts and allow the public to judge for themselves.

Naturally, to have the full support of the MOD in this matter would prove both a great advantage towards expressing the truth (which is what we want to do) and also would positively assist yourselves. Failure to assist (except in instances where there are reasonable grounds for such a failure, eg compromise of defence interests) might be construed the wrong way by the readers of the book. I would hasten to add that this interpretation would not be implied, but it might be an anticipated response if readers see the barrage of data met by relative lack of data supplied by your own department. It might, for example, seem strange that an incident seen by so many (and attested by several sources as being the direct result of some very unusual aerial incident and the direct cause of what might be fairly termed panic) in the vicinity of a strategic military base, did not result in an investigation by the MOD which took the form of more than a dozen one-line answers to questions on a one-page form. Of course, it may be that such a position is quite tenable, or that some other agency actually conducted the investigation. If so, a statement by you to that effect might be beneficial.

I must again stress that I have no axe to grind, nor any preconceived reason to suppose that you are concerned with any kind of cover-up operation. And even if you were I can think of many very excellent reasons why this might become both appropriate and opportune. However, my sole concern in this affair, and through the book about it, is as follows:-

- 1: The information that some kind of incident took place is substantive enough to be unquestionable in my view. (Indeed you do admit that there was an incident)
- 2: The character of that incident is very clearly defined by the visual sightings and other more probative data in our possession.
- 3: Such an incident in the vicinity of one of our strategic bases is of concern to the people of this country, whatever its causation.
- 4: The MOD express the opinion that they do not know what the causation was.

On that basis I think it reasonable to tell the story, factually and honestly.

Best wishes, Section 40

E156.



Miss J Randles

Section 40

D/DS8/10/209-1270

8 April 1983

Thank you for your recent correspondence on the subject of UFOs.

As regards your offer to summarise the reports held by this Department there really is very little to summarise. I attach a copy of a blank report form showing the type of information we require together with a couple of examples of completed reports (with the name and address of the informant deleted for reasons of confidentiality). I am sure you will agree that, although we hold a large number of reports, each one is indeed very brief.

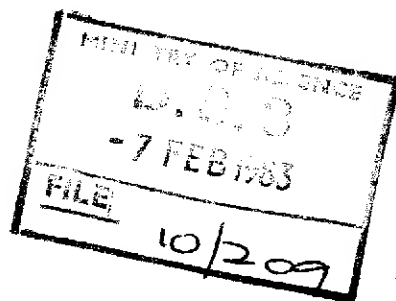
Turning now to your interest in the sighting at RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, I can confirm that USAF personnel did see unusual lights outside the boundary fence early in the morning of 27 December 1980 but no explanation for the occurrence was ever forthcoming. There is however, no question of the account being a cover-up for a crashed aircraft or testing of secret devices as you suggest, nor was there any contact with "alien beings".

I understand that an article on the Woodbridge sighting has been published in the magazine "OMNI" (Vol 5 No.6) in which you may be interested.

Section 40

Section 40





(E92/1)

Jenny Randles

Section 40

February 4 1983

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your recent reply to my letters of last year on the subject of UFO reports.

I appreciate that you probably find my repeated letters a nuisance since you do not regard the collection of UFO sightings as one of your primary duties. This I appreciate. Your responsibility is to protect the defence of this country, and it is evident that UFOs (as you rightly say) do not represent a defence threat. The problem is rather one of scientific merit; which is why your decision to release the material for scientific scrutiny is one to be much applauded.

Naturally, I recognise that there will be certain materials that will not be releasable, because to do so might compromise national defence. By that I mean possible circumstances where sensitive information has been used in attempting to eliminate certain identification possibilities. I doubt very much that you have a flying saucer locked up in an airbase somewhere!

Another problem, of course, is the question of confidentiality of the individual, who reports the experience. In many instances that person probably would not object to any serious attempt by outsiders to study the phenomenon he has reported. But I respect the problem that this causes for you.

You advise that you are studying the best means by which to release the files. It would seem to me that the amount of data which you possess must be considerable since experience in Australia indicates that the Royal Australian Air Force Files were extensive enough; and from published figures in Britain that you have released the files you hold must be greater still.

The actual mechanism by which you make this volume of data available will clearly be a problem. To release just summaries, for example, would clearly be in your interests from the point of view of time consumption. But this would be likely to lead to suspicions on some people's part that you are keeping back the most evidential data.

You could, of course, afford access to the data to any bona-fide individual; although that is a process that would be likely to be very expensive in terms of time for you to undertake, with what is, after all, a low priority item.

I would have thought that the simplest means would be to delete sensitive references from the files and lodge a copy of the whole set with some reputable scientific interest who are willing to offer them to public access (subject to certain guarantees that would protect the confidentiality of witnesses).

In previous letters I have proposed that you might consider let me have access to the files at your offices before these are made accessible to the public. This could be done in a similar way to which Mr Bill Chalker has been given access in Australia. Here he signed a document to guarantee the confidentiality of all witness names in the files he studied. He has since described the content of the material very thoroughly in Australian UFO publications. This has largely defused interest and concern in the files in that country, so reducing the work which the RAAF may have been called upon to handle simply by saying... 'the files are now accessible'.

I appreciate your point that if you gave access to me you might feel it difficult to justify in the face of requests from other sources. However, I would point out several things. Firstly, that I am the only full-time UFO researcher in this country. And secondly that I am in a position whereby I can make the content known on a wide scale within the UFO community. In Australia it was decided that they had to choose somebody and Bill Chalker proved his credentials and his perseverance.

continuing to request access. I think you will note that I have also been requesting that you release the files for a good while and we have exchanged letters for at least five years. My motives have always been those actually expressed in one of the RAAF minutes which Bill Chalker has quoted... "we only foster the incorrect (but nevertheless widely held) belief that we have much vital information to hide". They had seen the problems caused by not making the reports open.

As to my credentials I can only direct you to the several UFO books that I have written in which I have continually stated that UFOs are not spaceships or a defence threat, and have affirmed that the only 'cover-up' in force is one of ignorance... that is an acceptance of some unexplained cases but no more. This is the position that you adopt yourselves. I think, therefore, that I have shown my desire not to misrepresent the motives or position of your department and would welcome the opportunity of putting the record straight with the UFO community.

Bill Chalker has also offered to support my application if that would assist.

Why do I feel this would be in your interests? I am certainly not suggesting it for self-glorification; because I do not expect to find any revelations within your files that will be of 'salable' importance to the outside world. It will also be a long and tedious job sifting through them. But the benefits will be there in the sense of serious UFO research, both from the point of view of the occasional report which might signify a novel phenomenon and also from those many which indicate various misidentifications. My purpose in suggesting this move is partly to take some of the pressure off you that need not come. In other words by my summarising the data for the UFO community (as Bill Chalker has done) there becomes no need for a large number of people to have first hand access to the data since they will see from the summaries that the content is not 'explosive'. (Imagine if you made them available and dozens of 'ufologists' came after them, expecting hints about crashed spaceships and so on... Not finding this they will feel cheated and will probably make a bigger issue out of the materials they will claim you are holding back).

Another advantage is this. Merely putting the files on open release at any one time will obviously attract the media. The media (as I am sure you know) care little about the truth behind UFOs. They rather prefer to sensationalise. They would undoubtedly be interested in the files for the 'good story' they can get out of them by hinting at various things. Journalists, of course, are generally quite unacquainted with the truth about the UFO subject. I deal with them all the time and still marvel at the way they sit in amazement as I tell them that UFOs are not little-green-men, and all the images they love to spin, but are instead natural physical phenomena such as plasmas and the like. Not being familiar with the true situation they would tend to misinterpret what they read in what could only be a superficial glance through the data in the rush to get into print. Whereas if I could have access first and publish a detailed account in the UFO community (and I would of course make this freely available to all other researchers) then this could be distributed to the media in advance of your decision to release the files and they could absorb a summary of the data written by someone familiar with the subject. This again would defuse the potential misuse of the data.

I am holding firm with this idea simply because I do not wish to see the release of the files (which I regard as an excellent move) to be misused by anyone; It is my view that UFOs are an interesting scientific problem, especially in terms of psychology and atmospheric science. I wish these branches of science to make fullest use of the opportunity the release of your files will present. To this end it is very much in my interests to prevent widespread interpretation of the material in terms of the traditional (and unproven) allegations about UFO origin. I suspect this is in your interests too.

Nevertheless, I welcome the decision to press ahead with the release of the materials you hold and look forward to news of when this might occur.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE Defence Secretariat Division 8  
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)  
01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

566

Miss J Randles

Your reference

Our reference  
D/DS8/10/209

Date

20 January 1983

Section 40

Dear Miss Randles,

Thank you for your letters of 1 November 1982 and 15 December 1982.

I can confirm that Mr Chalker has written to the Ministry of Defence. As regards the question of publication of UFO reports, we are currently discussing the mechanics of printing and distributing the reports and once agreement is reached on those aspects it will of course take a little while before we can assemble all the material in a form suitable for printing. However, once we are in a position to start releasing these reports you will be informed.

Turning to the Ministry's investigations into low flying complaints, it is, of course, our policy to investigate such incidents but you will realise that when a large number of military aircraft are flying in one area at any particular time it is very difficult to pinpoint the offending aircraft. It becomes increasingly difficult to do so the longer the intervening period following the violation. As regards the possibility of Russian military aircraft penetrating UK airspace unbeknown to the RAF, we would regard this as unlikely since any such aircraft would be tracked on the radar constituting the United Kingdom Air Defence Ground Environment (UKADGE) and subsequently intercepted by our air defence aircraft. Air defence of the United Kingdom is one of our main areas of concern and a major modernisation programme is underway designed to provide a flexible, survivable air defence system capable of swift and effective reaction. I hope therefore that it will be clear that we do treat the air defence of the United Kingdom as a matter of the utmost importance.

I am not at all clear what sort of material you require to support the Ministry's position on UFOs and I think the most I can do is to provide a statement of our policy. This I attach at Annex and hope that it will be of some assistance.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

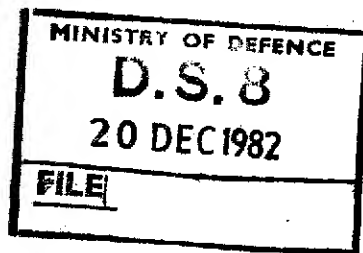


1. The sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in UFO reports is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest (eg intruding aircraft). Reports are passed to appropriate staff who examine them as part of their normal duties. There is no unit within the Ministry appointed solely for the study of UFOs, and no staff are employed upon the subject on a full-time basis.

2. The Ministry of Defence does not deny that there are strange things to see in the sky. It believes, however, that there are adequate material explanations for these satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles etc. It certainly has no evidence that alien spacecraft have landed on this planet.

3. In response to demands for publication of UFO reports Viscount Long (in the House of Lords on 7 April 1982) said that he saw no objection to these reports being made public. We are therefore studying the best means of publishing this material.

December 15 1982



10/209  
Jenny Randles

Section 40

Dear Section 40

There are several reasons for writing this letter. Firstly, as I have not yet received a reply to my letter of November 1 I enclose my new address. Should you have already written to my previous address and the letter be caught in the Christmas mail then I will receive it, as I have relatives there and am collecting mail regularly from them.

Secondly, I understand that Mr W Chalker from Australia has now written to you directly about the status of UFO files. He has, since I wrote to you, communicated the results of several more visits he has made extracting data from the RAAF, and is now in the process of obtaining material from other Australian sources. Is there any progress to report on the British situation?

Thirdly, your letter referring to the February 24 1979 situation arrived in time for me to be able to ask my publishers to add a footnote to the book to clarify the Ministry of Defence's position. I had no desire to appear to be unfair to you, or to create false inferences. The ability of myself to publish the true situation for the public to see is in both of our interests. For me it clarifies misconceptions; and for you it will (presumably) allay suspicions of more sinister motivations. Although let me point out, that nobody doubts that the MOD do have a right to secrecy on some matters. National security may well be infringed during certain aspects of your UFO investigations (such as they might be) and clearly a 'cover-up' of information in that respect would be just and reasonable. It is the emotive interpretation put onto the 'cover-up' that is what misleads folk. They believe you are covering-up some fantastic solution to the UFO mystery... a solution which does not seem to be there, quite honestly. Hence, it is much to your advantage to show your hand to the limits afforded by necessary security.

However, returning to this matter of the USAF F-111s on February 24 1979. I take the point that there was a special low-flying exercise that night (although my information is not that it was strictly USAF aircraft involved). In addition I recognise the USAF denial. However, as you must appreciate, the best answer by far to what was seen over the Ormskirk area that night was an F-111. Is it possible that the USAF are protecting their crew, who might have strayed into a forbidden zone? If so, because of the concern caused to the caravan park residents at Scarisbrick especially, and the inquiries of the local Member of Parliament, I would have expected the MOD to have made a clear statement. More problematic is what was seen, by civilians and police officers, further east over the Pennines that same night. Superficially it looked like the F-111 seen over the coast. Yet it was silent. Manchester Airport (who knew about the exercise) also immediately (that day) denied to us it was any aircraft.

Very recently we have had access to NOTAM - United Kingdom Mos. B 40 - B 45 / 1979 (dated February 13 1979). This warns civilian traffic of 'Low Flying by Military Fixed Wing and Helicopter Aircraft' on Saturday February 24 and Sunday February 25 1979 (which dates do not precisely align with your suggested February 21 to 24 exercise). However, in the period during which the postulated F-111 was seen over the coast and the more mysterious object over the Pennines it seems that 54 F-111s and 8 Hercules were flying locally. No helicopters were listed, but it is feasible they could have flown from other areas. The witnesses are adamant that they did not see a helicopter... but clearly this must be an option.

What bothers me is not simply that this data in some senses contradicts those you have quoted in your letters. But the fact that it was fortuitously obtained, too late for inclusion in the book, where incomplete understanding of the events of that night thus occurs. I am puzzled why a properly definitive statement could not have been made at the time to the enquiring media, and subsequently to UFO investigators such as myself. Merely to point out the extent of the exercise that night, and the types of craft involved would have been sufficient to raise many doubts about any UFOs being seen that night. As it is, you have created the quite reasonable speculation that there are ulterior motives not to make such a statement, and that the 'special exercise' might actually

have been in response to the wave of local UFO sightings. This was certainly an option which struck me in the circumstances. Although had I known the simple fact that the NOTAM was issued on February 13 it would have been evident that the exercise was pre-planned. Once again, by not being open where it would have been possible you have really just fuelled the fires.

Finally, I make once more my plea for some advance cooperation from you. The reason is simple enough, and should be evident after the above, BUT IS EMPHASISED by certain things. I have just been asked to prepare a 6500 word series for THE UNEXPLAINED, a weekly publication to which I have contributed in the past. This series will look at what we know of official UFO projects throughout the world; ie publically disclosed material. Naturally I will have to refer to the situation in Britain, and I will endeavour to be fair to the Ministry. But I cannot be blamed for making inferences (as in the February 24 1979 incident) if relevant data is withheld from me for no obvious reason. Since NOTAM is not a secret document; nor are the air corridor routes which military exercises take. Putting these facts together with the help of aviation experts was all I needed to place an entirely new interpretation on the facts.

What I am really saying is that my series in THE UNEXPLAINED could be used to your advantage. By offering me some material, which I could use to state and support your position, I would be reaching a large audience. I know that THE UNEXPLAINED are not the most respectable of outlets; but they are honest and have a good integrity. They have not shirked from publishing negative facts or retractions. They also have a considerable subscription (in the hundreds of thousands) and so reach the people who are most uninformed about the Ministry's activities. I could defuse a good deal of the public feeling if I had the ammunition to so do. If not, then I will still put your case, of course, but without back-up it will probably not be acceptable to most. The readers of THE UNEXPLAINED are broadly sure (simply because they want to be sure) that UFOs are spaceships, and the MOD knows this fact.

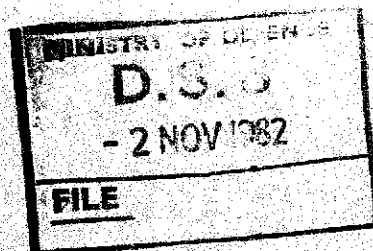
Unfortunately, I have a tight schedule for the production of this series, having little more than 6/7 weeks. But anything you are willing to offer, either access to data, cleared documents, or statements for me to quote, will be used to present a balanced argument. I genuinely do want to write the truth about this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Jenny Randles





Section 40 Section 40

629/2  
Jeremy Randles

Section 40

November 1 1982

Dear Section 40

Thank you most kindly for your letter of Oct 27, outlining replis to mine of 24 April & 20 August on the subject of UFOs.

The comments on the 24 Feb 1979 incident do accord with my interpretation of your original statements. Indeed, I had to go ahead with the book (THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY) without your reply (although I will try to get it referenced in the page proofs). Fortunately, I read your initial statement in the way you now state you intended it, and not in the way many people took it at the time. You must see that it was very easy to regard it as a little more than a suggestion of explanation. However, this presumably leaves us back at square one regarding the case. I am certainly more than a little concerned that the MOD is seriously advising the people of this country that no action was taken about the investigation of an object (which certainly behaved like an F1-11) that shook caravans, was seen independantly by (to my current count) about 30 people, and which without any question was streaking low over our north west coast and populated terrain (not to mention civil airlines) on that winter night. I find it incomprehensible that you were not aware of its presence due to radar, and secondly that no investigation resulted if not because of the fact the query came in three months later. Surely such an incontrovertible low-flying violation must be your province?

I am not trying to proclaim that the event of that night was a spaceship. Indeed it makes rather more sense to presume it was a military jet...and if not a USAF, or British one, then what?...a Russian one? What concerns me is that the public should get the impression the MOD is not concerned about the matter. Would it not be preferable to have undertaken a study and to comment that the affair was explained to your satisfaction (even if you could not state what that identification was)? I know that I would personally feel much happier to hear such a thing. Quite frankly from all the work I have done on the case for the book to be told you did nothing about it leaves me horrified at the state of our



2..

defend the systems over this country. For if you missed out on this extremely extrovert object then God help us if a sneak attack is attempted.

Let me stress that I do not think the object was a spaceship. But it does disturb me if it is really true that, whatever it was, did what it did without your knowledge or subsequent immediate concern.

Otherwise your comments about the UFO file situation are enlightening and hopeful. I presumably should not make too much of a fuss of this at the present, because otherwise you may get confronted by some rather silly correspondence. There are some really strange people around who profess to be involved with UFOs. If you do not know this now then you soon will find out. It certainly must have occurred to you that the precise way in which you declassify material, and make it available, may be a problem.

For a start, if you just release a summary of information in the files this will be wholly unsatisfactory, both from the research viewpoint and from your critics, who will proclaim that the rest is still being hidden for 'secret' reasons. You seem to be well aware of the uphill struggle you face with some of the lunatic elements within the subject.

I would be very interested to know what your plans are for making the material generally available (that is how you intend to do it practically). And I am very grateful for your promise of information when release is imminent. However, I will just throw into the fire for your consideration one point. It might help to offer me privileged access prior to general release. The reason is, I could assist from a public relations point of view by writing within the UFO community to placate readers about the content. This will help remove from you some of the flow of requests you may get from all and sundry, who may imagine the material will contain rather different things. Forewarned by a serious summary of content, written by a ufologically knowledgeable person, only those who really need specific data will request it...easing the burden on yourselves. This was the principle behind the Australian decision to make their files open to Bill Chalker. Bill wrote such a detailed summary within the UFO literature...as would I (in FSR to be precise). Bill, incidentally, has offered to endorse my request if it would help.

It is only a thought. But it could prove useful to you.

Sincerely,

Section 40

MD

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DD Ops(GE)/10/8

DS8

UFO SIGHTING - RAF WOODBRIDGE DECEMBER 1980

1. At Reference you ask if the suggestion that the USAF be asked for the tape recordings was followed up by this Deputy Directorate. It was considered that the tapes would reveal no better report than that already received, and no further request was made. However, it is considered that your approach to the RAF Liaison officer, will produce any considered views on the event.

2. I believe your outlined response is the right one; Neatishead, which is the Sector Ops Centre responsible for that area had nothing unusual to report, and nothing more substantive has come to light. I have received no evidence that any radar reported unusual tracks. MISS Randles appears to have "evidence of radar tracking", and provided that it can be managed without undermining our position, I would like to have a look at this radar evidence.

Section 40

2 ( Mar 83

Sqn Ldr  
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)

Section 40

Copied from REQUEST - Para(amb)  
D/DD Ops(GE)10/2  
Pent K

(Admin & General - UFGS)  
11-1-1983 - 27-6-1983.

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DS8/10/209

Ops(GE)(RAF)

UFO SIGHTING - RAF WOODBRIDGE DECEMBER 1980

1. You may recall that in December 1980 two USAF security patrolmen saw unusual lights at the back gate of RAF Woodbridge and on investigation found a brightly lit triangular object either hovering or on legs.
2. You began investigations into the incident and suggested asking the USAF for tape recordings (your D/DD Ops(GE)/10/8 of 16 Feb 81 refers) but unfortunately our files do not appear to show the outcome of your investigations.
3. I attach a copy of a letter received from one of our more regular UFO correspondents in which she seeks advice as to the Ministry's position on this incident. I am inclined to say that we are aware of the incident, that we made investigations but that we could find no explanation for the lights. Is this a true reflection of the facts or did we, in fact, come up with anything more substantive?
4. Any help you could give in replying to Miss Randle's letter would be much appreciated.

Mar 83

Section 40

DS8

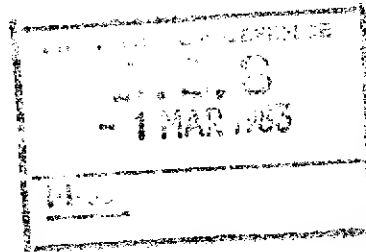
Section 40

10/8/-



Jenny Randles

Section 40



February 28 1983

Dear Section 40

Further to your letter to me of 20 January 1983 (your ref: D/DS8/10/209); the subject UFOs. I trust you have received my subsequent letter to this (addressed to Section 40) wherein I suggested that you might consider lodging the files you hold with a recognised scientific establishment. Here they could be accessible (an arrangement) to serious researchers, and their use could be adequately controlled. I really think this makes sense because the volume of data you must hold would make it very difficult to release other than summaries in printed form and often access to the full materials might be essential for scientific study.

A number of possible sources for locating these files, eg a university, come to mind. Indeed there have been a number of interested responses to the article on UFOs by myself and Peter Warrington (New Scientist, 10 Feb 1983) to which I refer you for illustration of my, hopefully, serious and none-sensationalist position on this topic.

I am well aware that to you UFO data is barely of interest and, as it does not seem to directly impinge on defence implications, of relatively low priority. However, I hope you also see that whilst 90% of these reports are unquestionably explicable there are reports that seem to offer probative data to scientists. Work that you, of course, have neither the facilities nor the resources to handle. It should be your concern that you hold this data, faithfully reported by individuals who would like something done. And I am delighted at your decision to make the material accessible for research.

Presumably it will be in your interests to cultivate a mood whereby UFO reports are not made to you, but to a scientific establishment (another advantage of lodging the files there). You could naturally rely upon the UFO community to transmit reports to you which might suggest defence implications. That is, if you are fair by serious investigators serious investigators will naturally be fair by you. And we too, of course, have the interests of Britain at heart and would not wish you to be unaware of any cases that might involve defence implications. Even though, as you have pointed out to me previously, none of your studies so far have produced such implications.

You have promised to advise me when you have taken a decision to release data, which is why I was somewhat surprised to learn that you have supplied to some colleagues of mine in Bristol data on cases in South Wales. I would, therefore, very much like an update on the current position please. For the last few years whilst writing to you I have stressed that I want to help put across your true position to the public (with which I have some influence as a full-time writer of UFO books and articles). But for this purpose I do need your help in return, of course. I see from the current issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, for example, that much is said about your alleged cover-up and it is towards correcting this view with the facts (if you will openly give them) that I am concerned. Hence my previous requests to be granted access to the data prior to release so that I might present a fair review in the UFO literature and defuse such commentary.

Finally, on the question of defence implications, I would wish to advise you of an accretion of data concerning an incident which appears to have taken place at the US Air Force base at Woodbridge, Suffolk, in December 1980. It is of some concern to me that you have not been able to offer any statement on this event, because on face value the evidence does suggest that somebody is hiding something.

Now I have published some of the material supplied to me (and gathered myself) in the UFO literature, primarily because in lieu of any other reason I believe the information should be told. But understand my position here. I have no wish to do anything injurious to British defence and if I was offered any reason (however roundabout) which suggested the case should simply be dropped then I would do so. For example, it is possible that the UFO story is covering either an accident or



of some secret device (either by British or American sources). Therefore, to usually stress this in a UFO context (which is how it has been reported) and yet inevitably have to mention such non-UFO explanations as these possibilities might be against this nations interests. Yet what else can I do, since I have no such reason to argue in this way and feel myself duty bound to discuss the matter in case it genuinely has gone un-noticed and yet may be of potential importance?

Very briefly, on this case, we have first-class hard evidence (which we could of course give to the national press but have had no desire to so do) that something occurred (during the last three days of the month, possibly December 29, 1980). This includes evidence of radar tracking of the unexplained object, its 'landing' in Rendlesham Forest and a number of independant testimonies that relate to a quite fantastic account of what supposedly happened after that. It is impossible for me and the couple of other people in possession of these full facts not to accept that a genuine event did occur and naturally we are more than a little concerned that (a) it has not been admitted to and (b) you profess to know nothing about it.

As I said, the evidence is strong (almost, I might say, categorically probative) and could (if we chose to discuss the full facts in the right way outside the limited circulation we have done so far) lead to quite an outcry about cover-ups. Personally, I believe you must have very good reason for doing what you are doing about this incident, and that may have nothing to do with UFOs per se. However, please see my position and recognise my dilemma. I want to do the right thing.

I am not expecting a reply saying anything specific about this event, but you may be able to offer advice about the problem I face. I have this data that seems probative. You do not seem to want it and claim to know nothing about it. I cannot just sit on it because it appears to be too important. Yet if I make a big issue out of it national security may suffer.

I would add that the story behind these events indicates that there was contact between military sources and an other intelligence (which is not alien spaceships in the nuts and bolts sense) but which is an indigenous intelligence to planet earth which in fact is way beyond us in terms of most capacities and therefore represent the real rulers of our world.

This account does merge with data offered by other sources to me (in confidence) including government officials in this country and abroad. I have never published it and have actually played down the possibility in my books. I am not saying I believe it. But I am saying that I have heard it from so many sources that I do have to listen. And it does make a great deal of sense out of many things.

The UFO subject is complex and to represent it fairly very difficult. I so very much do want to do the right thing. But I am beginning to doubt if I am doing the right thing. Can you offer any advice?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Jenny Randles



DEFENCE SECRETARIAT DIVISION 8  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
 Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB  
 Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)  
 01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

Miss J Randles

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference  
 D/DS8/10/209-1638

Date

26 August 1983



Dear Miss Randles,

Thank you for your letter of 1 August concerning the Bentwaters-Lakenheath incident on 13 August 1956.

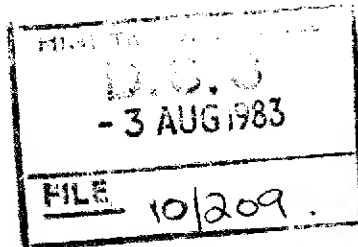
As I explained in our discussion last week, prior to 1967 it was the Ministry's policy to retain reports of UFO sightings only for a period of five years and that the earliest records we hold date back to 1962. In view of your claim about the importance of the 1956 case in UFO circles I have checked to see whether, by chance, the file relating to that period had been retained in spite of the general policy in force at that time but have managed to find no papers relating to the incident. I can only conclude, therefore, that they were destroyed along with other reports for the year 1956.

I am sorry that I can be of no assistance in this case.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

REQUEST Para 4.1 (a & b)  
 Copied from  
 D/DS8/10/209 Part F  
 (10.5.1983 - 22.2.1984)  
 General Briefs & Reports,  
 UFO Correspondence.  
 DEFE 24/1517.



Jenny Randles

Section 40

August 1st 1983

Dear Sirs,

We have corresponded a number of times in recent years about UFOs, a subject which I realise is of relatively minor importance to your department. However, as I think we have tended to agree, there is some scientific value in the study of data, even though its character is often misrepresented by the media (eg the recent example of the pseudo-circles in Wiltshire of which you are no doubt aware).

I have been much heartened by your expressed decision to release Ministry of Defence UFO files, as I am sure this policy will reflect well upon yourselves. Indeed I am grateful for the sample materials which you have supplied to me before. I wonder if there is any progress to report on the method of release of all your materials? I request information in this regard because it would certainly prove very advantageous (I think to yourselves as well as myself) if such was to become available prior to the end of 1983. Could you assess the likelihood of this, perhaps?

My principle intention in writing this letter is to request your specific help on one specific file.

The incident in question occurred on the night of August 13 1956, between the hours of 21.30 and 24.00 GMT (possibly a little beyond). It involved military personnel (both RAF and USAF) at Lakenheath, Bentwaters and Neatishead and included multiple radar trackings and visual observations (including some by RAF pilots on board Venom aircraft). There were civilian and military ground observers to the events also.

The case is heralded within the UFO literature as a 'classic', and indeed I admit that I have held to this view myself in the past. The opinion is based upon several sources. These include the file on the case which was collated by the US Air Force (Project Blue Book) and now publicly available (via the Freedom of Information Bill); the assessment of the case by Dr Gordon Thayer, a US radar specialist for the Colorado University UFO project; a reinvestigation in 1970 by atmospheric physicist Dr James McDonald; statements from some of the British radar operators and some of the ground observers (collated much more recently). However, all these evaluations have been carried out without the M.O.D. (or other British governmental department) report on the incident.

I realise that you have a policy regarding UFO materials and I understand this does not include pre-1962 materials. However, it would seem (in view of the interest in the affair by official US sources and the potential defence implications of such an incident, which involved three military radar systems and RAF aircraft) that somewhere a file on this case must exist. I would be grateful if you would look into this possibility and advise of the results, or at least suggest avenues of approach that I might try should it prove (by some chance) that your department has not retained a file on the matter.

I would add that myself and colleague **Section 40** are particularly interested in this case for the following reason. In February 1983 we published an article in the scientific journal, New Scientist, and we have since been commissioned to expand this into book form. The book is for a scientific publisher and will be aimed at the British scientific community, not a popular market. To this end we are reassessing many allegedly prime cases with more thoroughness than hitherto. This incident (which does offer some preliminary suggestions as regards a possible solution I might add) is a natural candidate.

Ideally, **Section 40** and myself would very gratefully welcome a clearance to see your UFO file material ourselves (for which we would gladly sign any papers to prevent our misuse, that you care to devise). Failing this, however, we hope you can assist with data on this particular case.

Yours Sincerely, **Section 40**



UNCLASSIFIED

Section 40

75

DI55/108/15

Head of S4

Section 40

1 of S4(Air)

I have not announced  
the performance formally without  
I think they would appreciate  
No D in note from you.

Under you have done  
so I will now minute on  
3 mod addresses sa  
is prepared

UFO: DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Section 40

Section 40

- References:
- A. D/S4(Air)/8/3 loose minute dated 17 May 1978.
  - B. D/S4(Air)/8/3 letter to Section 40 dated 17 May 1978
  - C. Background Note on UFO

I consider the background note on UFO to be a well balanced summary of the situation and I think it is an excellent basis for a speech by the Minister. I agree with the attitude expressed at the opening of para 4 of reference B that we should treat the subject sensibly rather than flippantly.

One additional point that could be made is that if there were extraterrestrial space activity by other civilizations then one would have expected some of the intensive radio listening searches carried out by reputable scientific organizations, particularly in the US, to have intercepted some of the transmissions between spacecraft or between spacecraft and their original base, but as far as I know, nothing has yet been intercepted that is accepted by reputable scientists as being evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence. Since radio communication is somewhat cheaper than space travel, one would have expected rather more radio communication than actual visits.

Turning now to your proposal in para 5 reference B, I would strongly advise against issuing a challenge even in the last resort. From the DI55 files I could easily produce 10 plausible events that, because of the lack of adequate descriptions, are quite inexplicable in terrestrial terms. I am sure that a convinced Ufologist could do likewise, particularly as some of the reports came from trained observers such as RAF aircrew.

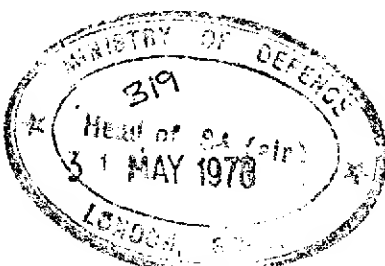
At a much lower level of discussion than is used in your paper, there is another argument which may be advanced against an extraterrestrial origin for UFO as follows. First, recent US and Soviet space probes rule out the possibility of intelligent life elsewhere in the solar system. If UFO are therefore extraterrestrial, they are also from outside the solar system. If now one makes reasonable assumptions about the number of stars in the universe and the proportion of those which might have inhabitable planets, and then further draws up a list of all the interesting places in the universe that an intelligent community might wish to visit, one is driven to the conclusion that a visit to an insignificant planet (the earth) of an uninteresting star (the sun) would probably not occur more than once in a thousand years or so, even if one assumes that every intelligent community made say 10 launches a year. Thus, claims of thousands of visits in the last decade or so are far too large to be credible.

I hope these comments are of some assistance.

Section 40

30 May 1978

ADI/DI55



UNCLASSIFIED

Request para 6  
Copied from  
Hd S4(Air)/BF 82  
Unidentified Flying Objects



DATA

Age of the galaxy	about ten thousand million years ( $10^{10}$ )
Number of stars in the galaxy	about one hundred thousand million ( $10^{11}$ )
diameter of galaxy	about one hundred thousand light years.
/Note 1 light year is about 6 million million miles ( $6 \times 10^{12}$ )	
position of sun	about 27000 light years from centre of galaxy
age of the sun	about <del>4</del> <sup>4 1/2</sup> thousand million years ( $4.5 \times 10^9$ )
Currently achievable speeds	about 12 miles/sec, to which can be added the earth's orbital speed of 18 miles/sec to give a total of 30 miles/sec.
time to journey to Pluto	Depending on the gravitational assistance, or otherwise, of the major planets of Jupiter and Saturn, 3 to 5 years.
Ultimate speed.	In principle speeds near that of light should be achievable but technology does not yet exist.

OCCAM'S (OR OCCAM'S) RAZOR

This phrase was applied to the philosophy of William of Ockham (c1290 - c 1349) which in essence said "entities must not be multiplied without necessity". In every day language this principle suggests that theories which need to elaborate in order to explain phenomena for which there is a simple explanation, are probably wrong.

JUDGEMENT

'It is unlikely that positive proof of the existence of UFO will be obtained without the examination of the remains of objects, crashed or otherwise. Proof of non-existence is equally impossible to obtain unless a reasonable and convincing explanation is determined for each incident. Many sightings by qualified and apparently reliable witnesses have been reported. However each incident has unsatisfactory features, such as shortness of the time of observation, distance from the observer, vagueness of the description, very poor quality of photographs, inconsistencies between observers apparently reporting the same incident, which prevents a definite conclusion being drawn.

(conclusion in report of project sign February 1949).

Hd of S4(Air) ✓

Section 40

(28)

Section 40

*Dr might be useful to  
have a copy of the  
CRO's letter for an  
offer*



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING, WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1

Section 40

TELEPHONE

Section 40

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

AF/JW 199/77

15 June 1977

*Dear Nicholas,*

My Department have investigated the report about an Unidentified Flying Object which you referred to me on 17th May on behalf of Section 40 of the Section 40. I regret to say however, that although a RAF officer has visited Section 40 we are unable to offer any further information. It is true that the Royal Observer Corps have a post in the adjoining field but there is no evidence that their activities could have seemed unusual in any way and we have no record of any other unusual activity in the area.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful

*Yours sincerely*

Section 40

Nicholas Edwards Esq MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

*Request Para 4 refers*

*Copied from  
D/DS8/25/3 Part A*

18



Royal Air Force

Brawdy Haverfordwest Dyfed SA62 6NN

Telephone Haverfordwest Section 40

Ministry of Defence

Dept S4 Air

(attn Section 40)

Main Building

WHITEHALL

London SW1A 2HB

Your reference

D/S4(Air)/8/3

Our reference

BWY/130/10 Air

Date

3 June 1977

Dear

Section 40

Following our recent communication I have visited Section 40 at the Section 40

Section 40 told me that one night in April of this year she saw a round object 'like the moon falling down' land in a field at the back of her property. Two very tall, faceless 'humanoids' got out of this object (about the size of a mini bus) and appeared to 'take measurements or gather things'. When Section 40 returned after calling members of the family the objects had vanished.

I examined the suggested landing site, which is in a field adjacent to a Royal Observer Corp underground monitoring post (MOD Post Shelter?) but could find no evidence of a landing. I can offer no explanation of Section 40 sighting but can confirm that it is not connected with the operations of RAF Brawdy.

There have been numerous sightings of UFO's in what the popular press now call 'the Broad Haven Triangle'. A high level of flying activity is generated by the military and civil airfields and to a lesser extent the Royal Aircraft Establishments; the area is also overflown by trans-atlantic aircraft. It has also been suggested that a local prankster is at work. The majority of sightings are reported to a Section 40 of Roch who is the 'regional investigating co-ordinator' for Section 40

I'm unable to offer any explanation other than above but should a UFO arrive at RAF Brawdy we will charge normal landing fees and inform you immediately!

Section 40

Flt Lt  
for Officer Commanding



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR DEFENCE FOR THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

AF/JW/199/77

25<sup>th</sup> May 1977

Dear Nicholas,

Thank you for your letter of 17th May covering the enquiry you have received from Section 40 of the Section 40 on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects.

My Department are investigating this question and I will write again as soon as I receive their report.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Nicholas Edwards Esq MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Section 40

Would you please return when the c/o's letter arrives.

Section 40

/b



M.2APS/US of S(RAF)

I have asked the Community Relations Officer at RAF Brawdy to visit Section 40 to see what can be done to help her.

May I suggest in the meantime an interim to Mr Edwards as attached?

Section 40

20 May 1977

S4 (Air)

Draft letter from US of S(RAF) to Nicholas Edwards Esq. MP

Thank you for your letter of 17th May covering the enquiry you have received from **Section 40** of the **Section 40** on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects.

My Department are investigating this question and I will write again as soon as I receive their report.

From:

Section 40

11



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HS

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9900 (Switchboard)

See E 18.

Flight Lieutenant Section 40 RAF  
Community Relations Officer,  
RAF Brawdy.

Your reference

Our reference D/S4(Air)/8/3

Date 30 May 1977

Dear Flight Lieutenant

Section 40

I enclose a letter which Mr Nicholas Edwards MP has forwarded to US of S(RAF) on the subject of a UFO which is thought to have been seen near the Section 40. There is also a cryptic reference to a "Ministry of Defence Post Shelter" in an adjoining field.

The Minister wishes to send as sympathetic a reply as possible and you agreed during our discussion on 19th May that a visit to Section 40 might be the best way of defining her problems and perhaps of allaying her fears.

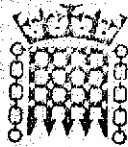
I am most grateful for your co-operation and I would welcome your advice on the reply that should be sent to the Member of Parliament when you have made your enquiries.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

*Adc  
18.5.77*

Nicholas Edwards MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17 May 1977

111  
AFJSW199177

MA of S9 (Avi)

rec'd 18<sup>th</sup> May

*See E-13.  
19-20.*

*D. J.*

I enclose a copy of a letter I have received  
from **Section 40** at the **Section 40**  
**Section 40** quiring about a Ministry of Defence  
Post Shelter in the field adjoining her **Section 40**  
where she claims to have seen a UFO. I  
should be grateful for further information.

*J. e.*

**Section 40**

Dr John Gilbert, MP  
Minister of State  
Ministry of Defence  
Whitehall Gardens  
London SW1



Section 40

Fully Licensed

AA \*\*

Section 40

Pembrokeshire

Section 40

Proprietor

Section 40

Manager

Nicholas Edwards  
M.P. for Pembrokeshire  
Dear Sir,

With reference my  
reported sighting of a UFO in field,  
which is hotel property, which has left me  
greatly agitated and disturbed, and not the  
least bit desirous of another encounter.  
I am writing you, requesting information as  
to what is the Ministry of Defense Post  
Shelter in the field adjoining mine, and  
within yards of my sighting of the  
U.F.O. Could there possibly be  
a connection. Should there be, I  
would be pleased to hear of an explanation,  
it would greatly help to relieve the  
sense of shock I feel since my  
encounter.

Yours sincerely

Section 40



## **AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION**

**Applicant:** Dr David Clarke

**Case Number:** 17-06-2005-153410-005

**Expiry:** 15 July 2005

### **The Applicant has made the following request for information:**

Dr Clarke asked three questions concerning information given to him in response to his previous requests and made four new requests for information. In response to my e-mail on 21 June in which I sought Dr Clarke's clarification of the information he was seeking, he also made a further request. A copy of all of this correspondence is attached and replies to all of these issues have been covered in this draft reply.

### **Case for release of information**

#### **Dr Clarke's questions**

1. It is at the discretion of departments whether or not to remove details of officials and we have not always been entirely consistent with the redaction of names etc, largely due to evolving FOI /DPA policy over recent years. Recently this has changed again and we have now been told not to redact names of officials when releasing documents unless we can claim that it is for health and safety reasons (s38). An explanation is included in the attached draft response.
2. I do not know what role Science 3 (RAF) had with regard to UFOs and I have only seen one mention of them in the mid 1980s on one UFO file. The branch no longer exists. Info-Records have located a copy of the MOD directory of the period and established this branch's role. Although Info-Records have located documents still in MOD archives from this branch, there is no suggestion that they have anything to do with UFOs. An explanation is given in the attached draft response.
3. We do not know what the original 1967 agreement was with regard to the retention of UFO files and there are no UFO policy files of this period still held in MOD. Info-Records know of no formal agreements with The National Archives about the permanent retention of these records. I have a record of the destruction of a number of UFO files, which is probably due to the incumbents of this post deciding they were not worthy of preservation. Dr Clarke has requested a list of the destroyed files and I see no reason to withhold this information. A list is attached at Annex A to this draft.

#### Dr Clarke's request for information

1a&b) I have searched the two files Dr Clarke mentioned and two other surviving UFO files of the period. None contain any mention of the meeting with Ms Randles on 18 August 1983. There is some correspondence with Ms Randles and she has given her written permission for us to release this to Dr Clarke. Copies of these are attached. D/DD Ops(GE)10/8 Part K contained a few papers that may be relevant and copies of these are also attached. Wg Cdr **Section 40** (CT and UK Ops – Airspace Integrity) has confirmed her agreement to the release of these documents.

2. I have passed Dr Clarke's request for a copy of D/DI55/108/15 Part 4 to **Section 40** (DIST-GM OMS AD). I have yet to have any response but will chase this.

3. A search of file Hd S4(Air)/BF 82 revealed two papers that might be relevant to Dr Clarke's request and he confirmed in an e-mail 21 June 2005 that he would like copies of these. I see no reason not to release them. On 2 July 2005 he also made a further request that this file be searched for a copy of a signal from the British Defence Staff in Washington dated 19 August 1976. This file was not opened until 1978 and does not hold a copy of the signal. Dr Clarke also requested a copy of any other papers from this file which refer to the House of Lords debate, which he has not already had. It is impossible to be certain which papers are relevant without examining all 250 pages and trying to match them to the vast amount of information already supplied. I have told him this is likely to ~~exceed~~ the £600 limit, but if there was something specific he was seeking I will see if it is on the file. *exceed*

4. Our files contain the documents Dr Clarke is seeking relating to **Section 40** **Section 40** experiences in June 1977. I do not know where Dr Clarke has got her name and address from, but I suspect it may be local newspaper reports. I can find no mention of her name on the internet, although there is an article about the **Section 40** at the time which says it features in three UFO books. I have discussed the release of these documents with the PTC FOI Cell and we agree that there seems no reason to withhold these documents under an exemption of the FOIA. It is not worth redacting **Section 40** name and address as Dr Clarke is already aware of this and we would not be supplying these documents unless they were relevant to the request. As these events took place 28 years ago it would not be practical to try to contact **Section 40** to gain her permission to release this information. The file should be released into The National Archive probably within the next year and at that point will be fully open to public inspection. I therefore propose to send copies of these documents to Dr Clarke. A few lines have been redacted in accordance with the Data Protection Act as they contain personal information about **Section 40** and give details of another member of the public.

**Authorisation**

I hereby give authorisation for the release of the aforementioned information to the Applicant.

Grade/Rank: B 2 Name: Section 40

Signature: Section 40

Date: 21/7/05



## **DRAFT REPLY TO DR CLARKE**

Dear Dr Clarke

I am writing in response to your two e-mail messages of 17<sup>th</sup> June in which you asked some questions about the contents of D/Sec(AS)12/1 Part A, and made a further Freedom of Information request. I apologise for the delay in sending a substantive reply.

First I will address your questions. For ease of reference I will number these replies in the same order as your letters.

1. When releasing information it is at the discretion of government departments whether they wish to remove the names of officials who work within the department. Generally this is considered on a case by case basis and may depend on such factors as the sensitivities of the area they work in, whether their name is already in the public domain and the age of the documents. Our duties to the individual to protect their personal information has also to be considered. MOD has been developing policies on all aspects of the release of information over the last few years in preparation for the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act and in these early months of FOI this continues to evolve. While the release of information will always be considered on a case by case basis, it has recently been decided that the names of officials will not be redacted from copies of released documents in the future unless there would, for example, be harm caused to the individual by releasing this data. With regard to the Rendlesham papers, the incident and many of the records were already 20 years old at the time of release and it was not considered necessary to remove these details.

2. Science 3(RAF) no longer exists. We have located a copy of the MOD telephone directory for the period which shows that this branch was part of the Assistant Chief Scientist (Personnel) (RAF) and their duties are described as "RAF Selection, training, manpower modelling, flight safety, air traffic services, and social factors affecting recruitment and retention of RAF personnel." Searches of the archive database have not identified any surviving UFO records from this department still held by the MOD.

3. I understand that in 1967 it was decided to preserve records of UFO reports because of the increased public interest in the subject. However, there are no policy records for this period still held by the MOD so it is not clear whether it was intended to include only UFO reports (not policy, correspondence or parliamentary business) or all records about UFOs. We know of no formal agreement with The National Archives that they would accept any of these records indefinitely. During our work to identify and locate all the surviving records held by the MOD on UFOs it has become clear that a number of files have been destroyed and I suspect this may be because different incumbents of the branches within the MOD who were responsible for these records have used their judgement as to which files to preserve and this has inevitably lead to the destruction of some records. In recent years, with the introduction of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information and now, the Freedom of Information Act, there has been a change in the type of correspondence we receive, from people wishing to tell us about their sightings, to requests for information held by the MOD. In response to this we have tried to preserve everything we can on the

subject and **Section 40** and his staff look out for any UFO related documents when reviewing MOD files. As requested, attached at Annex A is a list of UFO related files which are known to have been destroyed.

Moving on to your request for information.

1a&b). File D/DS8/10/209 Part E (General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence, Reports) was opened on 2 November 1982 and closed on 10 May 1983. The file contains four letters from Ms Randles and some associated correspondence. None of these letters refer to a meeting at MOD Main Building in August 1983 and there is no other relevant information on this file. As Ms Randles has provided her permission for the release to yourself of copies of her correspondence, I have enclosed these for your information.

File D/DS8/10/209/1 Part A (General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence-Reports) was opened on 6 May 1983 and closed on 23 October 1983. This file contains no correspondence with Ms Randles, or any reference to a meeting at MOD Main Building in August 1983.

A? In addition to the files you mentioned I have also asked the department responsible for Air Defence matters to search D/DD Ops(GE)10/8 Part K (Admin & General, UFOs) for any relevant information. This file was opened on 11 January 1983 and closed on 27 June 1983. The file contains no papers about a meeting in August 1983. There is however, correspondence between **Section 40** and Ops(GE)(RAF) in March 1983 concerning radar at the time of the Rendlesham incident. This was not a pre-meeting briefing, but followed a letter from Ms Randles dated 28 February 1983 in which she claimed there was "evidence of radar tracking". I am not sure if this is relevant to your request, but I have enclosed copies of these documents for your information.

As D/DS8/10/209 Part E was closed in May 1983, I have also examined D/DS8/10/209 Part F (General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence). This part was opened on 10 May 1983 and closed on 22 February 1984. This file contains only one letter from Ms Randles dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 1983 which makes no mention of a meeting and there are no other relevant papers on this file. A copy of Ms Randles letter and **Section 40** reply is enclosed.

These files consist of all the known surviving UFO files available for this period. I can therefore only conclude that there are no surviving papers relating to the meeting with Ms Randles.

2. Your request for a copy of D/DI55/108/15 Part 4 (UFO Policy 1996) has been passed to DI55. I have yet to have a response, but I will hasten them on your behalf.

3. Please find enclosed the two documents from file Hd S4(Air)/BF 82 which I informed you about in my e-mail of 21 June 2005. You also made a further request for a copy of a signal from the British Defence Staff (Air) in Washington dated 19 August 1976 from this file. I can inform you that this file was not opened until 13 July 1978 and does not contain a copy of the signal. You may wish to be aware that UFO files for 1976 are already open at The National Archives. With regard to the remaining

papers in this file, it is impossible to say whether you have already had copies of all the documents without examining every page (the file contains more than 250 pages) and trying to match them with the large amount of information you have been sent in response to your previous requests. Such an exercise would be extremely time consuming and likely to exceed the time permitted in accordance with the FOIA. However, if there is something in particular you are seeking, I will see if this is amongst these papers.

4. Please find enclosed copies of correspondence between US of S (RAF) and Nicholas Edwards MP in June 1977 concerning a letter from Section 40 of the Section 40. I can confirm that the Community Relations Officer at nearby RAF Brawdy was asked to visit Section 40 and details of this are also enclosed. A few details have been removed as these are personal to Section 40 and another member of the public. There is no evidence that the Provost and Security Service Flying Complaints Flight was asked to make inquiries into these events.

I hope this is helpful. I will hasten DIS for the outstanding papers from both this and your earlier request and will contact you about these again as soon as possible. If this information does not address your requirements or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of this request, then you should contact me in the first instance. Should you remain dissatisfied, then you may apply for an internal review by contacting the Director of Information Exploitation, 6th Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB.

If you are still unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 07 July 2005 09:39

To: Section 40

Subject: AIR 20/12966

Section 40

We discussed the above file on Monday (Dr Clarke enquiry) and I undertook to check with TNA about the likelihood of its inclusion in the next pickup.

I am advised that it will be include in the next transfer to Kew - a possibility of transfer next week (w/c 11 Jul) but if not then "definitely" w/c 18 Jul.

Section 40

13/07/2005





Section 40

**From:** david clarke Section 40  
**Sent:** 02 July 2005 10:14  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Freedom of Information Request  
**Importance:** High

2 July 2005

Dear Section 40

With reference to our exchange of emails dated 21/22 June concerning papers in file HdS4(Air)/BF 82 you will recall I asked if you could supply any additional papers relating to UFO matters/House of Lords debate contained in this file that were not supplied in response to my earlier (2003) request.

Having scanned the contents of the other file (DD Ops 10/8/1 Pt A) I found a reference to a signal sent from the British Defence Staff (Air) in Washington to MODUK S4 Air, reference RAFS/1280/1/ORG, dated 19 August 1976. Apparently this was a summary of the US Air Force position on UFOs circa 1976 that was sent to S4 Air for use in the House of Lords debate.

If this signal/letter and any associated papers are contained in the HdS4(Air)/BF 82 I would of course appreciate copies.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

*File not opened until 13 July 1978*

13/07/2005



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## UFO sightings sparked MoD probe

May 28 2005

Sam Burson, Western Mail

A SPATE of UFO sightings in Wales prompted a secret Ministry of Defence investigation, newly-released information has revealed.

The clamour around the possibility of "little green men" visiting Pembrokeshire forced Government officials to look into the situation in the late 1970s.

There were numerous tabloid reports, including one of an entire class of schoolchildren claiming to have seen a UFO landing.

Many others reported being petrified by a strange silver alien.

It all happened in what became known as the Broad Haven Triangle.

Canny tourist operators even started running UFO sighting weekends.

But new documents show despite publicly dismissing the reports as hoaxes, defence experts were racing to get answers.

In a letter from May 1977, MoD minister Dr John Gilbert MP tells officials in the department, "I am being inundated at the present time with representations about UFOs said to have been seen in Pembrokeshire."

He asks whether any investigations are being carried out.

A reply tells the minister, "We look into detailed reports of unexplained phenomena to see if they have a bearing on the national defences."

But they reassured we were not in danger of alien takeover, saying, "My department has carried out that type of investigation on the reports received from Wales, but these have been few in recent months.

"No evidence has been revealed to suggest that the alleged sightings in Wales, or indeed those reported from other parts of Great Britain in the past, contained anything of significance from a defence point of view.

"All I can tell you on the basis of the department's past experience, is that most reports of this nature can usually be referred to a commonplace object, which may have been observed perhaps from an unusual angle or in somewhat unusual weather or lighting conditions."

However, unbeknown to the minister, the RAF in West Wales was asked to carry out a "discreet" investigation.

An extract of a private memorandum to the Provost and Security Service of the RAF, (effectively the military police), reads, "I should be grateful if you would have a look at these papers and let me know whether you think some sort of discreet inquiry would be worthwhile.

"What I would really like to know is the volume of local interest and/or alarm, and whether there is a readily discernible rational explanation for it (perhaps a

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practical joker), or even whether there is prima facie evidence for a more serious specialist enquiry.

"But I have not committed you in any way, and I have not even told the minister I am consulting you."

The report called for has yet to be released.

Sheffield University's folklore lecturer Dr David Clarke, who uncovered the other documents under the Freedom of Information Act, is now trying to track it down.

Dr Clarke, who is researching a book called Saucer Full of Secrets about the folklore of UFO sightings, said, "I was really surprised to find this.

"Generally the MoD dismisses these things and doesn't take them too seriously.

"But to find they ordered an investigation behind the Minister's back is pretty interesting.

"It's not quite the X-Files, but it is along the same lines."

Dr Clarke is now trying to get hold of people who were featured in what he sees as the tall tales of nearly 30 years ago.

"What I'd really like is to speak to some of the kids who apparently saw the alien craft."

A newspaper at the time reported Broad Haven Primary School headmaster Ralph Llewellyn backing the claims of his pupils, 14 of whom had drawn similar pictures of the craft.

"What would be fantastic is to meet whoever it was wearing the alien suit," added Dr Clarke.

"As far as I've been able to work out it was someone living locally, who'd got hold of a chemical suit, having a great time terrifying people."

**Page 2:** UFO 'hysteria'

**Page 3:** The West Wales Star Wars connection

**1 2 3 Next >**

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# Bored in Bargoed?



# Events

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IN 1977 the talk of Pembrokeshire was all about UFOs.

Among dozens of alleged sightings, Billy and Pauline Coombes, living at a remote farmhouse near Broad Haven, were apparently terrified to see a 7ft giant in a silver suit outside their front room window at 1am.

Josephine Hewison, meanwhile, was reported to have seen a 50ft craft the shape of an upturned jelly mould parked outside her greenhouse.

As well as pranksters, and talk of strange goings-on at local military bases, folklore expert Dr David Clarke thinks films fuel the hysteria.

"Close Encounters of the Third Kind and Star Wars had just come out, so the idea of space was very much at the front of people's minds, which is fascinating in itself."

Anyone with stories or recollections from the time wanting to help David's research can get in touch on 07906 377 988.

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e.g. Carc

**Quick V**

Are kids with the craze?

- ☐ Yes - woul
- ☐ 2
- ☐ No n
- ☐ gene
- ☐ Can't hear

**Vote Arc****View the**  
**Western M****Wales n****Riddle of****Airport w**  
**bomb ho****Puzzle of**  
**dumped****Silent illr**  
**Welsh w****Lawyer's**  
**death co**

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Ask Jeeves

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Hotel, Bed and Breakfast, Guest House, Lodging and Self Catering Accommodation

## Haven Fort Hotel

**Settlands Hill, Little Haven, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, South Wales, SA62 3LA**  
**Telephone: 01437 781401**

---



A uniquely attractive cliff top hotel, offering unsurpassed, breathtakingly beautiful views of St Brides Bay and Pembrokeshire National Park. The hotel, standing in a magnificent position in its own grounds, dominates the picturesque view of Little Haven and commands superb panoramic views, from all angles of the hotel. Safe bathing can be enjoyed at the hotel's own beach, safe access from Little Haven Beach.



The national park offers something for everyone. There are miles of cliff top pathways for the walkers offering unparalleled scenic splendour. The bays of Settlands, Little Haven and Broad Haven with their fine beaches are ideal for bathing, fishing, sailing, skin diving and surfing.

---

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The hotel being of neo-Gothic architecture all public rooms are fitted and furnished in the style of the medieval period.

There are 15 letting bedrooms with private bathrooms.



Snacks and cream teas served in Bar open to non residents.

The hotel has been prominently featured in the books "The Welsh Triangle", "The Dyfed Enigma", and "Uninvited".

Open Easter - October.

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#### **Basic Tariff**

Single bed and breakfast from £42.00

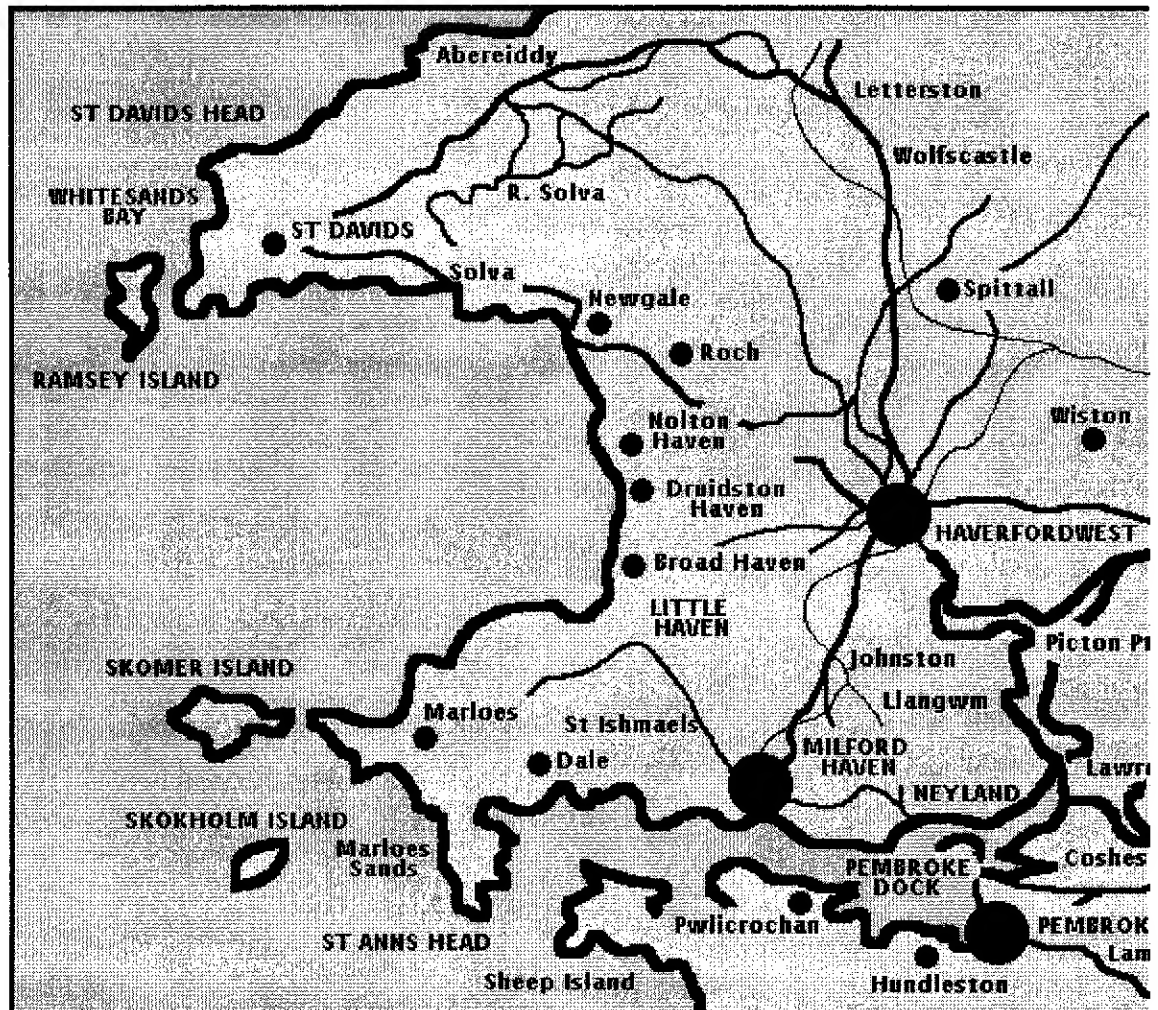
Double bed and breakfast from £62.00

Family bed and breakfast from £80.00

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### Files known or thought to have been destroyed

AF/X58/64 Pt 1	1968 (Last enclosure 22.2.1968)	UFO Policy & Policy Statements	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 16.3.1990
AF/X58/64 Pt 2	1970 (Last enclosure 31.3.1970)	UFO Policy & Policy Statements	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 15.3.1990
AF/1505 Pt 2	1970 (Last enclosure 1.7.70)	Parliamentary Enquiries on UFOs – Prime Minister's Folders Section 40	MOD Registered File FILE DESTROYED 15.3.1990
AF/1505 Pt 3	1977 (Last Enc 13/1)	Parliamentary Questions and Enquiries on UFOs	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 5.3.1990
D/DS8/75/2/1/1 Pt I	1978 (Last Enc 11/1)	UFOs-Reports Correspondence – Section 40	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 19.3.1990
D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt D	1978 (Last Enc 25/8)	UFO Reports & Correspondence	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 19.3.1990
D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt E	1978-79 (Last Enc 10/1)	UFO Reports & Correspondence	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 19.3.1990
D/DS8/75/3/1 Pt A	1979 (Last Enc 15/1)	UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence House of Lords Debate January 1979	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 22.3.1990
D/DS8/75/3/1 Pt B	1979 (Last Enc 15/2)	UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence House of Lords Debate January 1979	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 22.3.1990
D/DS8/75/1 Pt A	1979 (Last Enc 18/1)	UFO Policy Statements	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 16.3.1990
D/DS8/75/3 Pt B	1979 (Last Enc 25/1)	UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 20.3.1990
D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt C	1979 (Last Enc 24/9)	UFO Reports June-Oct 1979	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 22.3.1990
D/DS8/75/1 Pt B	1979 (Last Enc 4/12)	UFO Policy Statements	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 20.3.1990
D/DS8/75/5	Not Known	UFOs – Solar Satellite Power Station	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 19.3.1990
D/DS8/75/3 Pt C	1982 (Last Enc 11/2)	UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 22.3.1990
D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt I	?	?	No record of the creation or destruction of this part. Possible error in the lettering of this series of files

D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt J	1982 (Last Enc 12/2)	UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 26.3.1990
D/DS8/10/209 Pt H	1984 (Last Enc 24/12)	General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 26.3.1990

**Files held in Directorates and Archives**

FILE REF	DATE OF CONTENTS	TITLE	STATUS
AIR 2/18872	1972-73	UFO Reports	MOD Registered file. At PRO for release 2004 Ref AF/7464/72 Pt I
AIR 20/12544	1973 (January)	UFO Reports	MOD Unregistered papers. At PRO for release 2004 Ref ID/48/129
AIR 20/12545	1973 (February)	UFO Reports	MOD Unregistered papers At PRO for release 2004 Ref ID/48/130
AIR 20/12546	1973 (March)	UFO Reports	Air Ministry/ MOD/ AHB Unregistered papers At PRO for release 2004 Ref ID/48/131
AIR 20/12547	1973 (April)	UFO Reports	Air Ministry/ MOD/ AHB Unregistered papers At PRO for release 2004 Ref ID/48/132
AIR 20/12548	1973 (May)	UFO Reports	Air Ministry/ MOD/ AHB Unregistered papers At PRO for release 2004 Ref ID/48/133
AIR 20/12549	1973 (June)	UFO Reports	Air Ministry/ MOD/ AHB Unregistered papers At PRO for release 2004 Ref ID/48/134

**UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO) FILES**  
**DIRECTOR OF AIR OPERATIONS**

**Files open for viewing at the Public Record Office (PRO)**

None.

**Files known or thought to have been destroyed**

FILE REF	DATE OF CONTENTS	TITLE	STATUS
D/Air Def /111/6/4 Pt A	1988 (Last Enc 9.4.88)	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 15.11.1989
D/Air Def /111/6/4 Pt B	1988(Last Enc 2.8.88)	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 2.8.1988
D/Air Def /111/6/4 Pt C	1989(Last Enc 27.1.89)	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 15.11.1989
D/Air Def /111/6/4 Pt D	1989(Last Enc 17.10.89)	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 26.11.1982
D/Air Def /111/6/4 Pt E	1990	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file FILE DESTROYED 26.11.1991

**Files held in Directorates and Archives**

FILE REF	DATE OF CONTENTS	TITLE	STATUS
D/Air Def/111/6/4 Pt F	1991 (From 15.3.91)	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file Held in Records 2 (Hayes)
D/Air Def/ 111/6/4 Pt G	1992-95	Command, Control, Communication & Information –Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	MOD Registered file Held in Records 2 (Hayes) <b>Copy of the whole file released to Dr Clarke</b>



Building/  
Room Extension/  
Exchange

Science 2 (RAF) — Strike/attack, recce, air def,  
maritime, air tpt

PSO  
PSO  
SSO  
SSO  
SSO  
Sqn L  
Sqn L  
HSO  
HSO  
SO  
SO

Section 40

Section 40

### ASSISTANT CHIEF SCIENTIST (PERSONNEL) (RAF) — ACS(P)(RAF)

ACS(P)(RAF) Senior Principal Psychologist  
Scientific briefs and research on RAF personnel matters  
Personal Assistant

Science 3 (RAF) — RAF selection, trg, manpower modelling, flight  
safety, air traffic svcs, and social factors affecting  
recruitment and retention of RAF personnel

Section 40

Service support staff  
Clerical staff

Section 40

### ASSISTANT CHIEF SCIENTIST (GENERAL) (RAF) — ACS(G)(RAF)

ACS(G)(RAF) Senior Principal Scientific Offr  
Long term review of RAF eqpt programme. Scientific briefs and  
research on logistics  
Personal Assistant

Science 1 (RAF) — Logistics, reliability, ADP

Computer svcs for all CS(RAF) staff

Section 40

Gen scientific support for Science 1 and 2(RAF)

Service support staff

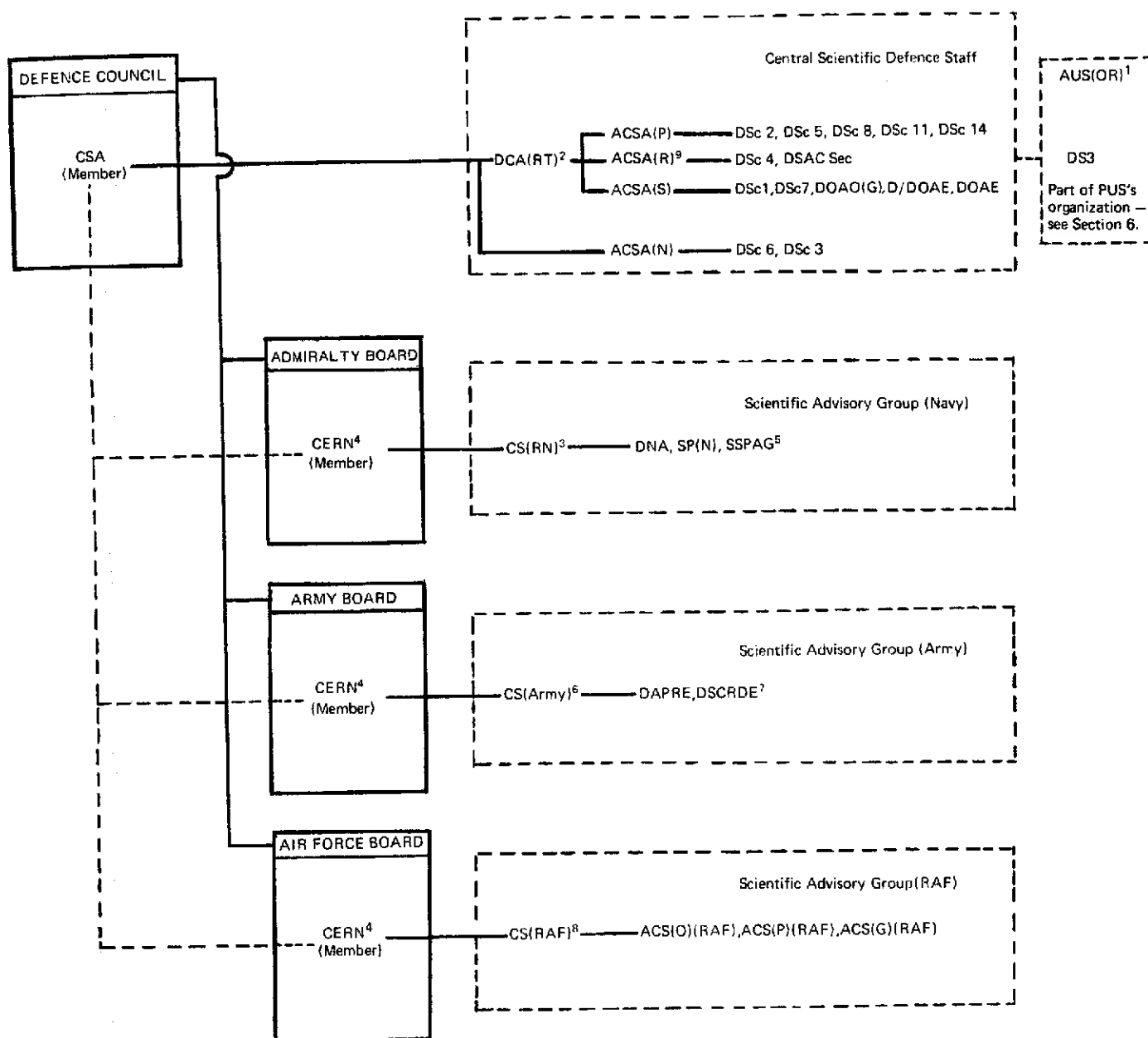
Section 40

### INDEX — SECTION 3

Page No.		Page No.		Page No.	
ACSA(N)	2	CS (RN)	4	D Sc 11	2
ACSA(P)	2			D Sc 14	2
ACSA(R)	2	DAPRE	6		
ACSA(S)	3			SAG(A) 1 etc	5
		DCA(RT)	2		
ACS(G) (RAF)	7			SA (SD)	4
ACS(O) (RAF)	6	DNA	4		
ACS(P) (RAF)	7			SCIAD	5
		DOAE	3		
ADNA 1 etc	4			Science 1 (RAF)	7
		DOAO (G)	3	Science 2 (RAF)	7
AD/SAG(A) 1 etc	5			Science 3 (RAF)	7
		DSAC Sec	2	Science Admin (RAF)	6
APRE	6				
		D Sc 1	3	SP (N)	5
CSA	2	D Sc 2/5	2		
		D Sc 3	3	SSPAG	5
CS (Army)	5	D Sc 6	2		
		D Sc 7	3		
CS (RAF)	6	D Sc 8	2		

Section 40

DEFENCE SCIENTIFIC STAFF



1. Also responsible to DUS(Pol)(PE).
2. Also responsible to CERN (Section 17).
3. Also responsible to VCNS (Section 7) and, as DGRA, to DCA(RT) (Section 17).
4. Also responsible to CDP.
5. Also responsible to ACNS(P) (Section 21).
6. Also responsible to VCGS (Section 8) and, as DGRB, to DCA(RT) (Section 17).
7. Also responsible to QMG (Section 8).
8. Also responsible to VCAS (Section 9) and, as DGRC, to DCA(RT) (Section 17).
9. Also responsible to CERN (Section 17)

Building/  
Room Extension/  
Exchange

D Sc 3 — Asst Director, Senior Principal Scientific Offr.  
Implementation of co-operation procedures under 1958 US/UK Def Agreement, dissemination of def nuclear info; classification and tech nuclear sy pol; safety of nuclear wpns and naval nuclear propulsion plants. Sec of Nuclear Powered Warships Safety Ctee (NPWSC) and Nuclear Wpns Safety Ctee (NWSC); radiological health and safety pol; def nuclear records  
Personal Assistant

Radiological health and safety pol. Sec. MOD Radiological Protection Tech Advisory Ctee (RAPTAC); tech sy and safety aspects of naval nuclear propulsion matters incl US/UK liaison; nuclear wpn effects and nuclear hardening; management and classification of def nuclear records; tech aspects of nuclear emergency arrangements; PQs

Junior Sec of Nuclear Powered Warship Safety Ctee (NPWSC), Nuclear Wpns Safety Ctee (NWSC) and MOD Radiological Protection Tech Advisory Ctee (RAPTAC), Deputy Atomic Control Offr

ATOMIC Control Offr; pol and procedures on nuclear sy matters incl classification guides and clearance for access to ATOMIC, CONIFER and PRINCIPAL info; management of def nuclear records

Clearance, access and nuclear visit inquiries  
Distr of Def nuclear info

Registry  
Reviewers (def nuclear records)  
(Also responsible to CS(R)1)

Section 40

Clerical staff  
Clerical staff  
Clerical staff  
Record Reviewers

Section 40

### ASSISTANT CHIEF SCIENTIFIC ADVISER (STUDIES) — ACSA(S)

ACSA(S) Chief Scientific Offr (also DOAE)

Co-ord and execution of analytical studies under the gen responsibility of CSA relating to pol, strategy and tactics, force structure and long term system reqts; support to Secretariat, Def pol and intelligence staffs. Def Operational Analysis Org pol and planning; executive responsibilities for Operational Analysis Ctee (OAC), staff assistance to OAC Military Priorities Subctee, HQ responsibilities for Def Operational Analysis Estb (DOAE)

D Sc 1 and 7 — Director, Deputy Chief Scientific Offr  
Personal Assistant

D Sc 1 — Assistant Director, Senior Principal Scientific Offr  
Personal Assistant to ADs D Sc 1 and D Sc 7

D Sc 7 — Assistant Director, Senior Principal Scientific Offr

Section 40

Clerical staff

Section 40

### DEFENCE OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS ORGANIZATION (Germany) — DOAO(G)

Director (DOAO(G))  
Reports to ACSA(S)  
Personal Assistant

Land Studies — BAOR

Air Studies — RAF(G)

Admin

Land Studies — 1(BR) Corps

JHQ British Forces  
Germany BFPO 40  
JHO Rheinland

Section 40

Clerical staff ●

Section 40

Section 40

Clerical staff

Section 40

### DEFENCE OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS ESTABLISHMENT — DOAE

Director (DOAE) (also ACSA(S))  
Reports to CSA  
Personal Assistant

Deputy Director (Scientific) 'A'  
Personal Assistant

Deputy Director (Scientific) 'B'  
Personal Assistant

Senior Military Co-ord/Senior Svc Representative (RN)  
Personal Assistant

Tech Advisory Group

Senior Svc Representative (RN)  
Senior Svc Representative (Army)  
Senior Svc Representative (RAF)

Section 40



Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 21 June 2005 11:38  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: Freedom of Information request

Ref A  
 Only 2 enclosures  
 on the file that  
 refer to radar +  
 his handles.

Section 40

On my list of files, there is only one of yours which could possibly hold relevant information and that is D/DD Ops(GE)10/8 Part K – Admin & General, UFOs (Covering 11.1.1983 – 27.6.1983). I have recalled my files from Archives to see if the information Dr Clarke is seeking are on these, but if not I expect there is a slim chance that your file may hold something relevant.

Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 21 June 2005 08:46  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: Freedom of Information request

Section 40

The only UFO files I am aware of are the 33 files that we published last year. If there is no record of the discussions in 1983 on those files, I do not have any other records that I can search for you.

Realistically, any briefing on radar would be core business for the AD staffs and unlikely to have attracted any written records at MOD level.

Let me know if you need me to do anything.

Section 40

SO1 Airspace Integrity  
 DCT&UK Ops

Section 40  
 Internet account Section 40 @mod.uk

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 17 June 2005 17:03  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Freedom of Information request  
**Importance:** High

Dear All

Please see attached two e-mails which I have received today from Dr Clarke about UFOs. One is some follow on questions from his previous requests for information and one is a new FOI request. I would be grateful for your advice as follows:

Section 40

FOI request, para no.2. – During inquiries with Section 40 about records affected by the asbestos contamination in OWOB, it was established that there were four DI55 UFO Policy files which were previously thought to be in the contaminated archive, but were in fact held by DI55. One of these is the file requested here by Dr Clarke. Please could you let me know whether you wish to release (or withhold) this information through me, or answer this part yourself.

FOI request, para no.3 – This file is one of mine, but as he is looking specifically for a document sent to S4 (Air) by ADI/DI55, is it possible you may also hold any relevant information?

13/07/2005

ond request, para no.2 – The documents referred to in this paragraph were forwarded to a branch called "Science 3 (RAF)" circa 1985-87 by DI55. Until we released these papers I had never heard of this branch. Do you know if they were part of DSTI? With regard to Dr Clarke's question about what happened to the UFO file and database compiled by Science 3, I think Section 40 said that she had evidence that the database had been destroyed. I don't know if this goes for their files to. Perhaps you can advise me?

Section 40 please could you also let me know how you are getting on with the papers still outstanding from Dr Clarke's January FOI request.

Section 40

FOI request, para no.1b. – I will look for any papers we might hold on our files regarding this, but please could you let me know if you hold any relevant information concerning advice given to Section 40 by Air Defence Staff.

Section 40

FOI request, para no.3 – Given the date of this file, please could you let me know if you or your staff hold it for review or it is likely still to be in the TNT archives?

Thank you all for your help. I would appreciate a response as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40



Section 40



**From:** david clarke Section 40  
**Sent:** 21 June 2005 17:46  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Re: Freedom of Information request  
**Importance:** High

Dear Section 40

Thanks for your e-mail re my request 3: Yes I can confirm the two pieces of information from file HD S4 (Air)/BF 82 sound like the ones I am seeking.

My reference to these papers actually comes from the Rendlesham file (enclosure 29) - marked 'copy taken from D/DS8/10/209 Pt A on 26 Feb 2001' which is a Loose Minute from Section 40 to DI 55 dated 28 Jan 1981, this reads: "During the preparation for the Lords Debate on UFOs on 18 Jan 1979, DI 55 Section 40 made contributions to Hd of S4 (Air)'s Draft Closing Address and Background note."

I took this to mean a formal briefing, but from the contents of the file you mention it would seem it was in the form of notes. I'm asking for these as DI 55's contribution to the debate materials was missing from the other House of Lords file supplied last year (see below):

If the remainder of HD S4(Air)/BF 82 duplicates the content of DD/Ops(GE)10/8 Pt A then I'm content just to receive the two items you mention. If there is any additional material not duplicated in the latter file I would appreciate copies of these.

Many thanks for your attention to this request.

David Clarke

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Section 40  
**To:** Section 40  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2005 4:39 PM  
**Subject:** Freedom of Information request

Dear Dr Clarke

I am working on your requests for information and will send a substantive reply as soon as possible. I would however, be grateful if you could clarify the information you are seeking relating to request 3.

I have examined file HD S4(Air)/BF 82 and as you suspected the file does contain correspondence relating to the House of Lords Debate on UFOs, most of which I believe you have already received in response to your previous requests. With regard to a briefing sent to S4(Air) by ADI/DI55 for the debate, I can advise you that the file contains two pieces of information which might be relevant, although neither appear to be an actual "briefings". The first is a letter from ADI/DI55 Section 40 to Head of S4(Air) Section 40 dated 30 May 1978 in response to a request from Section 40 for any comments on a background note for the House of Lords Debate. The other is not addressed to anyone (or dated) but is simply titled "Notes from Section 40" and gives some information about stars, the galaxy and the time it would take to reach other planets. There is also an explanation of Occam's Razor and a quote from Project Sign in February 1949.

Please could you confirm whether either of these documents are likely to be the one you are seeking.

Your sincerely,

Section 40  
 Ministry of Defence

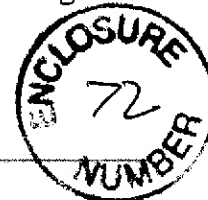
13/07/2005

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

Section 40

Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk



Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 20 June 2005 10:05  
To: Section 40  
Cc:  
Subject: AIR 20/13011 (provisional)

Section 40

The above piece - former ref Hd S4(Air)/BF82 UFOs Sept 1978 to Jan 1979 - should be with you and ready for the next pick-up (?).

Section 40 has an FOI request about the file; please contact her Section 40 to arrange for its temp transfer to her.

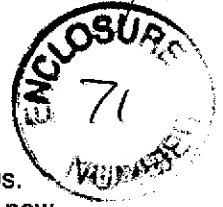
If the file is included in a pick-up while still out to DAS please contact Section 40 would rather the file not miss the transfer opportunity!

Section 40

20/06/2005

DR CLARKE

17-06-2005-153410-005. Exp. 18 July.



Dear All

Please see attached two e-mails which I have received today from Dr Clarke about UFOs. One is some follow on questions from his previous requests for information and one is a new FOI request. I would be grateful for your advice as follows:

**Section 40** DST-GMOMS AD

FOI request, para no.2. – During inquiries with **Section 40** about records affected by the asbestos contamination in OWOB, it was established that there were four DI55 UFO Policy files which were previously thought to be in the contaminated archive, but were in fact held by DI55. One of these is the file requested here by Dr Clarke. Please could you let me know whether you wish to release (or withhold) this information through me, or answer this part yourself.

FOI request, para no.3 – This file is one of mine, but as he is looking specifically for a document sent to S4(Air) by ADI/DI55, is it possible you may also hold any relevant information?

Second request, para no.2 – The documents referred to in this paragraph were forwarded to a branch called "Science 3 (RAF)" circa 1985-87 by DI55. Until we released these papers I had never heard of this branch. Do you know if they were part of DSTI? With regard to Dr Clarke's question about what happened to the UFO file and database compiled by Science 3, I think **Section 40** said that she had evidence that the database had been destroyed. I don't know if this goes for their files to. Perhaps you can advise me?

**Section 40** please could you also let me know how you are getting on with the papers still outstanding from Dr Clarke's January FOI request.

**Section 40**

FOI request, para no.1b. – I will look for any papers we might hold on our files regarding this, but please could you let me know if you hold any relevant information concerning advice given to **Section 40** by Air Defence Staff.

**Section 40**

FOI request, para no.3 – Given the date of this file, please could you let me know if you or your staff hold it for review or it is likely still to be in the TNT archives?

Thank you all for your help. I would appreciate a response as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

**Section 40**

DAS-FOI

**Section 40**

17<sup>th</sup> June 2005

17 June 2005

Dear **Section 40**



Thank you for your email dated 25 May in response to my question concerning the provenance of the Flying Saucer Working Party and Rendlesham documents released to me under the Code of Practice in 2002.

I look forward to receiving the outstanding DIS papers from my FOI request of 19 January 2005. Having now examined the papers contained in D/Sec(AS)12/1 Part A - UFO Policy I have three questions relating to content:

1) Could you explain why the names of MOD employees/military personnel have been removed from these papers? I am puzzled as to why names of personnel \*have\* been released in the papers relating to the Rendlesham incident, currently on the MOD Publication Scheme, but have been removed from this and other requests. I attended an FOI conference held by the Association of Journalism Education at Sunderland University on 20 June where I was informed by a representative of the Information Commissioner's office that there is no specific exemption under the FOI for names of public servants to be removed from papers released, and the decision to do so is purely at the discretion of the department concerned. Could you confirm this is the case?

2) Enclosure 13 (and surrounding papers) in the file refer to a xcomputerised UFO database compiled by an MOD department/ branch known as Science 3 (RAF) circa 1985-87. E14 refers specifically to a UFO file held by Science 3 at this point that ran to Part M (i.e. eight parts). However, no reference to these files can be found on the list you supplied earlier this year. What happened to the UFO file and database compiled by Science 3?

DIS?  
Science 3  
- Chief Scientist  
Flower?  
Technical  
Reports  
150/160  
Boxes

3) In Enclosure 27 (Loose Minute D/Sec(AS)12/1 2 April 1990) reference is made to "clearing our cupboards of old files on the subject of UFOs, some of which have been sent to CS(Records) for retention." I note from your letter of 25 April 2005 (note 5) that two files (D/DS8/75/3/1 Pts A & B - UFOs, House of Lords debate) were destroyed on 22 March 1990 - presumably as a result of this clear-out. Do you have details of any other UFO files and their titles that were destroyed at this time? How was it that destruction of these files was authorised in 1990 when the same minute (above) refers to Ministerial policy from 1967 that UFO files should be preserved for release at the PRO under the Public Records Act?

I understand that as more 60 working days have elapsed since my last FOI request I am now able to make a further request under FOI which I am sending separately, both by email and post (as my request contains a written note of consent under the DPA 98).

Yours sincerely,

Dr David Clarke

TNA - UFO Policy 1967 - DEFE 31/119



Jenny Randles

Section 40

DAS	
102No. ....	21 JUN 2005
FILE	_____

8 October 2004

Dear Sirs,

This letter is to confirm that I am happy for the Ministry of Defence to release to Mr David Clarke and any persons that he nominates, any documents, letters or files concerning myself. In particular those materials that might relate to my correspondence with Department DS8, its predecessors and successors, in connection with UFOs and the release of papers into the public domain. This occurred during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Also during that period my records pertaining to my visit, with two others, to Whitehall during the summer of 1983. On this visit I was able to present to the MoD a document

2/

released under the Freedom of Information Act in the USA regarding incidents in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, December 1980 - that being a report signed by Lt. Col. Charles Halt and sent to the MOD by his British base supervisor, Squadron Leader Donald Moreland. It is agreeable to me / or the MOD to release to Dr Clarke anything referent to this meeting, its build up or its aftermath, or, indeed any subsequent papers in their possession relevant to myself.

Sincerely,

Section 40



**David Clarke**

**From:** "David Clarke" [Section 40]  
**To:** [Section 40] @mod.uk>  
**Sent:** 17 June 2005 11:28  
**Subject:** FOI Request

Dr David Clarke

[Section 40]

17 June 2005

Freedom of Information Request: Ministry of Defence

Dear [Section 40]

I wish to make a FOI request for hard copies of all documents/papers etc related to the following specific subjects.

I am also sending by post a printed copy of this email, enclosing a letter from Ms Jenny Randles dated 8 October 2004

giving you consent under the Data Protection Act (DPA 98) for personal material related to request 1a and 1b (below) to be released to me.

FOI requests:

1a: Copies of all relevant material (briefings/notes/reports/correspondence) relating to a meeting between Jenny Randles [Section 40] and [Section 40] and [Section 40] of the Ministry of Defence DS8c which took place at MOD Main Building, Whitehall, on 18 August 1983 to discuss the UFOs and specifically the release under the USA FOIA of the memo by Col Charles Halt relating to the "Rendlesham UFO incident."

1b: Copies of any notes/reports or other material relating to a briefing in pre-18 August 1983 given by Air Defence staff to [Section 40] and other staff at DS8 relating to the role of radar in the investigation of reported UFOs.

This briefing was, I understand, referred to by [Section 40] during her meeting with Ms Randles on 18 August

1983. Reference to your file list suggests this material will be located in file D/DS8/10/209 Pt E and D/DS8/10/209/1

Pt A (General Briefs, reports, correspondence 1983)

2. I request a copy of the contents of file D/DI 55/108/15 Pt 4: UFO Policy 1996. I understand from your letter of 25 April 2005 that this file, along with 3 others, have escaped the asbestos contamination currently affecting the DI file store. I note that the file I am requesting is held by DI 55 and its contents will in all probability contain classified documents that will have to be downgraded before they can be released under FOI. I would appreciate in advance of this process any information on the number of enclosures contained in this file and the approximate dates covered by the contents.

3. Copy of file Hd S4(Air)/BF 82 - Unidentified Flying Objects Sept 1978-January 1979. I understand from the list of files you supplied this is held by MOD. I suspect this file contains correspondence relating between the head of S4 (Air), [Section 40] and other MOD branches relating to the House of Lords debate on UFOs held in January 1979. In particular, I wish to obtain a copy of a briefing for use in the debate sent to S4(Air) by AD/ID 55, [Section 40] during the period mentioned.

17/06/2005

With reference to your email dated 17 March 2005 in respect of my request in 2003 under the Code of Practice for copies of Parliamentary correspondence relating to UFO sightings in Wales during 1977. I now make a request for a fresh search of file D/DS8/25/3 Pt A - UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence 1977-79, particularly enclosures nos: 1-45 for copies of the following: correspondence between Nicholas Edwards MP and the PUS of S for the RAF dated 15 & 17 June 1977 and any other related material concerning sightings reported to Mr Edwards by Section 40 of the Section 40. This correspondence is separate from the letter by Mr Edwards dated 24 May and reply dated 16 June you supplied in 2003. I understand Section 40 was interviewed by an officer from RAF Brawdy and inquiries were made by the Provost and Security Service Flying Complaints Flight in the area. As a result of a report on the findings was forwarded to S4 (Air) by the Community Relations Officer, RAF Brawdy, during the period May-June 1977. Please supply copies of these papers if they can be found in this file.

I would not expect this request to exceed the £600 limit under the FOI for the search and copying of material. If you believe it does, then please could you let me know so that I can modify my request accordingly.

I am grateful for your assistance,

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

17/06/2005



Dr David Clarke

Section 40

17 June 2005

Freedom of Information Request: Ministry of Defence

Dear Section 40

I wish to make a FOI request for hard copies of all documents/papers etc related to the following specific subjects. I am also sending by post a printed copy of this email, enclosing a letter from Ms Jenny Randles dated 8 October 2004 giving you consent under the Data Protection Act (DPA 98) for personal material related to request 1a and 1b (below) to be released to me.

FOI requests:

1a: Copies of all relevant material (briefings/notes/reports/correspondence) relating to a meeting between Jenny Randles, Section 40 and Section 40 and Section 40 of the Ministry of Defence DS8c which took place at MOD Main Building, Whitehall, on 18 August 1983 to discuss the UFOs and specifically the release under the USA FOIA of the memo by Col Charles Halt relating to the "Rendlesham UFO incident."

1b: Copies of any notes/reports or other material relating to a briefing in pre-18 August 1983 given by Air Defence staff to Section 40 and other staff at DS8 relating to the role of radar in the investigation of reported UFOs. This briefing was, I understand, referred to by Section 40 during her meeting with Section 40 on 18 August 1983. Reference to your file list suggests this material will be located in file D/DS8/10/209 Pt E and D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt A — (General Briefs, reports, correspondence 1983)

2. I request a copy of the contents of file DI/DI 55/108/15 Pt 4: UFO Policy 1996. I understand from your letter of 25 April 2005 that this file, along with 3 others, have escaped the asbestos contamination currently affecting the DI file store. I note that the file I am requesting is held by DI 55 and its contents will in all probability contain classified documents that will have to be downgraded before they can be released under FOI. I would appreciate in advance of this process any information on the number of enclosures contained in this file and the approximate dates covered by the contents.

3. Copy of file Hd S4(Air)/BF 82 - Unidentified Flying Objects Sept 1978-January 1979. I understand from the list of files you supplied this is held by MOD. I suspect this file contains correspondence relating between the head of S4 (Air) Section 40 and other MOD branches relating to the House of Lords debate on UFOs held in January 1979. In particular, I wish to obtain a copy of a briefing for use in the debate sent to S4(Air) by ADI/DI 55, Section 40 during the period mentioned.

4. With reference to your email dated 17 March 2005 in respect of my request in 2003 under the Code of Practice for copies of Parliamentary correspondence relating to UFO sightings in Wales during 1977. I now make a request for a fresh search of file D/DS8/25/3 Pt A - UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence 1977-79, particularly enclosures nos: 1-45 for copies of the following: correspondence between Nicholas Edwards MP and the PUS of S for the RAF dated 15 & 17 June 1977 and any other related material concerning sightings reported to Mr Edwards by Section 40 of the Section 40

checked  
11-1-83  
27-6-83  
Section 40  
D/D DS8c  
10/8  
Adm General  
Recalled  
From TNT  
21/6/2005

DISS  
17/6/2005

Section 40  
DISS

Section 40

while I have



**Section 40** This correspondence is separate from the letter by Mr Edwards dated 24 May and reply dated 16 June you supplied in 2003. I understand **Section 40** was interviewed by an officer from RAF Brawdy and inquiries were made by the Provost and Security Service Flying Complaints Flight in the area. As a result of a report on the findings was forwarded to S4 (Air) by the Community Relations Officer, RAF Brawdy, during the period May-June 1977. Please supply copies of these papers if they can be found in this file.

I would not expect this request to exceed the £600 limit under the FOI for the search and copying of material. If you believe it does, then please could you let me know so that I can modify my request accordingly.

I am grateful for your assistance,

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke



From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone

(Direct dial)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)

020 7218 2140  
020 7218 9000

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk

**Section 40**

Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**

Your Reference

Our Reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11

Date  
25th April 2005

Dear Dr Clarke

Further to my e-mail message of 17<sup>th</sup> March, I am now in a position to give a reply to your request for information. I will also address the questions you asked in your e-mail message of 18<sup>th</sup> March. I apologise for the time taken to provide this response.

1). Please find enclosed a copy of file D/Sec(AS)12/1 Part A – UFO Policy, as requested. This copy is reproduced in the same order as the original file. A number of documents have been removed for various reasons which I will indicate below and their place in the file has been marked to indicate where the documents sit within our records. The enclosures removed are as follows;

**Enclosure 150** – Withheld subject to consultation with another department.

**Enclosure 146/1** – Contains personal information and is withheld in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA98).

**Enclosure 145+1** – Contains personal information and is withheld in accordance with the DPA98.

**Enclosure 144/1** – Contains personal information and is withheld in accordance with the DPA98.

**Enclosure 144+2** – Contains personal information and is withheld in accordance with the DPA98.

**Enclosure 112** – Has not been supplied as it is a duplicate of Enclosure 118.

**Enclosures 83-85** – Classified documents which are being withheld subject to authority to downgrade this information for release.

**Enclosures 70-71** – Classified documents which are being withheld subject to authority to downgrade this information for release.

**Enclosure 68** – Classified documents which are being withheld while we seek authority to downgrade this information for release.

**Enclosure 64** – Has not been supplied as it is a duplicate of pages 2 and 3 of Enclosure 65.

**Enclosure 32** – Classified documents which are being withheld subject to authority to downgrade this information for release.

**Enclosures 22-23** – Contains personal information and is withheld in accordance with the DPA98.

Please note that the documents marked as withheld awaiting downgrading have not been supplied at this time because they were originally covered by security classifications. Information is not withheld under the Freedom of Information Act purely because it was classified on creation, but the reasons for such a classification and any continuing sensitivities have to be considered before the information can be released. Only the originator has the authority to downgrade classified

information and in this case, the documents have been returned to them for consideration and I will write to you again about these records as soon as possible. All the information redacted from the released documents has been removed because it is personal information and therefore subject to the Data Protection Act 1998, or is original security classifications which have now been removed. A few documents have entirely been withheld under DPA98 because the whole document concerns information personal to an individual.

2). Please find enclosed a copy of all the documents you requested, except for D/DIST/11/10 dated 3 February 1997. As above, I am currently seeking authority to downgrade this document and I will write to you again about this as soon as possible. As advised in my e-mail message of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2005, you will notice that D/Sec(AS)64/1 dated 14 March 1997 is actually dated 1994. As this refers to previous correspondence dated 29 January 1997, I believe this was an error and this is the document you are seeking. You also requested any additional correspondence that follows in this sequence and I am seeking authority to downgrade the three further papers that I have identified as relevant.

3). With regard to your request for copies of correspondence relating to DIST's decision to no longer receive UFO reports, DIST have now supplied a copy of a letter dated 4 December 2000 which details the reasons for this decision and I am seeking their permission for downgrading and release.

4) You also asked which files from a list of 34 files are now at The National Archives (TNA). I am advised that the last pick up of records by TNA was on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2005 and this included only four UFO files. These were D/DS8/75/2/2 Part E, D/DS8/75/2/2 Part F, D/DS8/75/2/3 Part D and D/DS8/75/2/3 Part G. These have been allocated to DEFE 24/1288 – DEFE 24/1291. Following collection, TNA take 50 working days to prepare records before they are open for public viewing, so you may wish to look at their catalogue to see when these become available. In addition, you may wish to be aware that the following records on your list are already open at TNA. All other records are still with the MOD.

D/DS8/2/3 Part C	-	TNA Ref: DEFE 24/1205
D/DS8/75/2/1 Part B	-	TNA Ref: DEFE 24/1206
DI55/108/15/1 Part 21-		TNA Ref: DEFE 31/163
DI55/108/15/1 Part 22-		TNA Ref: DEFE 31/164
DI55/108/15/1 Part 23 -		TNA Ref: DEFE 31/165
DI55/108/15/1 Part 24 -		TNA Ref: DEFE 31/166
DI55/108/15/1 Part 25 -		TNA Ref: DEFE 31/167

With regard to the transfer of UFO files to TNA it may assist you if I explain the transfer process and why it is not possible to be exact about dates of transfer. MOD records are reviewed at various times up to the time when they are 30 years old and are either destroyed or selected for TNA. If the department consider they warrant preservation at TNA they are given a provisional TNA reference and added to a list which is sent to TNA for approval. These lists can sometimes run to hundreds of records and TNA may not agree to accept everything that is offered to them (although UFO records are usually accepted because of their popularity). If accepted, TNA will then decide which items from the list they will collect and when. This is not conducted at regular intervals but entirely at the discretion of TNA, who will inform the MOD (often at short notice) of when they will be collecting. Once records are collected, TNA take a further 50 working days to prepare and catalogue the records before they are open for public viewing. You may wish to note that the reference given to these items by MOD staff when they are listed is provisional only and may be changed by TNA during this process. Until this stage has been completed the TNA catalogue will show the item as not available. This does not necessarily mean that the record is still with the MOD, but simply that it is not yet available for viewing. I have been informed that there are no collections by TNA scheduled in the near future.

5) In your e-mail message of 18<sup>th</sup> March you enquired about the numbering of the UFO Parliamentary Correspondence file from 1977-1978. I can confirm that this file has been given three reference numbers. The file cover of the file shows the number as D/DS8/25/3 Part A, although the writing could also be interpreted as D/DS8/75/3 which would fit more easily with the rest of this series of files which all seem to be in the 75 series. It appears that this file also had a previous number of D/S4(Air)8/3 Part A and it is likely the file was renumbered when the branch changed from S4(Air) to DS8. This is, however, separate from the two files which you refer to that were destroyed on 22 March 1990. These were D/DS8/75/3/1 Parts A and B – UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence, House of Lords Debate 1979.

6). You also asked about four DIS UFO policy files which **Section 40** said were believed to be with DI55. Although it was initially thought that these files were amongst those which were stored in the asbestos contaminated archives, DI55 have confirmed that D/DI55/108/15 Parts 4-7 have escaped the contamination and are held in the branch.

7). Finally, as mentioned in my message of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2005 please find enclosed copies of enclosures 95 and 96 from D/D Air Def/111/6/4 Part F which were outstanding from one of your earlier requests for information. I apologise for the length of time it has taken to supply this information, but it was necessary to consult a third party before release and unfortunately this can sometimes be a lengthy business.

I hope this covers your request for information, plus the additional questions you have raised. DIS have indicated that they will come back to me shortly concerning the documents they have for downgraded and I will write to you again as soon as possible regarding these. In the meantime, please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**



15/1

[REDACTED]

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)64/1

14th March 1994

AO/AD1  
DI ST

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS  
DAO  
Head of Sec(AS)  
DI Sec  
AD/DI55  
DPR(RAF)

'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS' - POLICY

Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 29th January 1997

1. You will recall that I wrote at Reference seeking advice and comment on the way forward for handling 'UFO' reports and I wonder if you have yet had time to consider what might be required so far as your respective interests are concerned. I discussed a number of points at a meeting some three weeks ago with [REDACTED] but have not heard further.

2. I appreciate that other issues might well have taken priority in recent times but I would like to make some progress on this in the near future.

[REDACTED]

Sec(AS)2

[REDACTED]

FAX : Section 40

[REDACTED]



ENCLOSURE  
4+1  
1997

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

29th January 1997

AO/AD1

DI ST

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS

Head of Sec(AS)

AD/DI55

DAO

DI Sec

DPR(RAF)

'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS' - POLICY

1. I have been giving some thought to the way the Department currently handles 'UFO' reports and letters from members of the public, many of the latter actively seeking information about the existence of extraterrestrial life forms, or seeking a detailed investigation/explanation for what has been reported (allegations of abduction by aliens, out of body experiences, animal mutilations, crop circles etc).
2. The increasing media attention given to this subject in recent months has almost doubled the work of the desk officers involved to the detriment of other tasks more directly relevant to the work of the Branch. In the circumstances it seems timely to reappraise the situation with a view to clarifying the Department's role and requirements. Existing Government policy and my understanding of the current arrangements is set out at Annex.
3. I believe there should be a demonstrated need to continue current policy if we are to do so and would be grateful to know:
  - a. the extent of DAO and DI ST current interest in 'UFO' reports;
  - b. whether Sec(AS) should continue to forward any sighting reports to DAO or DI ST from members of the public for further examination/clarification and, if so, the criteria on which such decisions might be based.
  - c. whether the focus of interest ~~is~~ should be internally generated (ie air defence) or rely on reports only from credible witnesses with full involvement from DAO and DI ST in the investigation process.
4. Depending on the nature of any changes proposed it may be necessary to seek Ministerial agreement to proceed. I look forward to receiving your formal comments.

Sec(AS)2

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2

'UFO REPORTS': MOD INTEREST AND CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

Policy

1. The Government's policy on 'UFOs' is that the air defence implications of unidentified flying objects are a matter for the MOD; air traffic implications are a matter for the Civil Aviation Authority.
2. MOD's interest in 'UFOs' is limited to examining reported sightings to establish if such activity might have a defence significance (ie whether the UK Air Defence Region has been breached).

Sec(AS)2 Responsibilities

3. Sec(AS)2a acts as the focal point for MOD Policy on 'UFO' issues and maintains a simple record for all reported sightings, staffs sighting reports and public correspondence relating to alleged sightings to other MOD Branches as necessary, responds to Parliamentary and Ministerial inquiries, and deals with written and telephone enquiries from members of the public. DPO staff deal with media enquiries based on advice from Sec(AS)2.

Current Arrangements

4. It is generally the case that 'UFO' reports are copied to AO/GE1 for advice on air defence related issues, and to DI55 for the technology aspects of what has been observed. DAO has no interest in extraterrestrial matters and 'UFO' sightings are considered only in relation to a possible military threat to the UK's air defences. DI55 is responsible for studying aerodynamic missiles and is the DIS repository for UFO reports forwarded by Sec(AS): they have no evidence to date to support the extraterrestrial hypothesis.
5. It is considered that events giving rise to a defence interest are only likely to be reported by credible witnesses, ie military pilot reported incidents or detections by defence radar or early warning systems. In these circumstances DAO staffs would lead on the response in light of the circumstances at the time. Other credible witnesses might be professional civil pilots, officials at Air Traffic Control Centres (ATCCs) and the emergency services (police/fire). During the last two years only a handful of reports have been made by credible witnesses and none have provided evidence of defence significance.
6. There are no resources within the Department to provide an aeronautical identification service for every 'UFO' report. More importantly, given MOD's stated interest, there is no requirement to do so.

29+2

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

22nd April 1997

DI ST

Copy to:

AOAD1  
PSO/ACAS  
DAO  
Head of Sec(AS)  
DI Sec  
AD/DI55  
DPR(RAF)

'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS' - POLICY

Reference:

- A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 29th January 1997
- B. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 14th March 1997
- C. D/DAO/1/13 dated 25th March 1997
- D. D/Sec(AS)64/1 dated 2nd April 1997

1. It is now some time since I wrote (Reference A) seeking views on the way forward for the increasing amount of correspondence and sighting reports the Department now receives on the subject of 'UFOs' and related issues.

2. In the absence of any advice from DI of a need to see such material, I can only assume that this subject does not warrant significant interest. I therefore propose that for the future only information relating to 'credible' sightings will be further disseminated. The criteria for what constitutes a 'credible' sighting was given in my response to AOAD1 (Reference D - copied to you) following receipt of his advice on the extent of DAO interest.

3. I should be grateful to know that this course of action is acceptable to you.

Sec(AS)2

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

2nd April 1997

AOAD1 \*

Copy to:

\* by CHOTS

PSO/ACAS \*

DAO \*

DI ST

Head of Sec(AS) \*

DI Sec

AD/DI55

DPR(RAF) \*

'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS' - POLICY

Reference A: D/DAO/1/13 dated 25th March 1997

1. Thank you for your reply (Reference A) to my minute seeking advice on the way forward for the handling of 'UFO' reports.
2. In view of your stated interest in 'UFO' sightings (para 2 of Reference A), Sec(AS)2 will in future only refer to you for advice or investigation reports that fall into the following categories:
  - a. documented sightings - reports that are supported by evidence such as photographs, video recordings or radar traces, where these cannot be readily explained and are provided by sources who appear to be reliable;
  - b. corroborated sightings - a series of reports apparently describing the same phenomenon and provided by separate and independent sources, where these cannot be readily explained;
  - c. timely sightings - reports of a phenomenon that is currently being observed and might, therefore, be capable of detection by AD or other assets such as military aircraft or radar observers.

We will not follow-up undocumented, uncorroborated reports of past events unless, in the opinion of the Sec(AS) desk officer or duty officer, there are features of particular interest or dependability.

3. You asked about US reporting and investigating practices. We have inquired about this in the past through the Washington Embassy. The US DOD has a statement on their Internet web site recording their 'Project Blue Book' research and concluding that they no longer have any interest in UFO reports and related matters; those who wish to report 'sightings' are invited to contact local law enforcement agencies.

4. You question whether we need to fund investigation of

[REDACTED]

REDACTIONS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

inexplicable incidents. Ministers' policy is clear: we are not funded to investigate all unexplained phenomena and our interest is confined to any occurrence that may have an air defence significance. The Prime Minister sees no case for funding research into extra terrestrial 'UFO' phenomena.

5. Finally, you suggest that we need an electronic database and management system against which sightings might be recorded and handled. This is not something we ourselves see any need for.

[REDACTED]

Sec(AS)2

[REDACTED]

RESTRICT\1\UFOs

[REDACTED]



or answer on Thursday 27 February 92 by US.g.s(DP) PQ No.  
 Draft reply required by 1600 Wednesday 4 March 1992

SEC(AS)

PO60075



## ACTION DIVISION:

Draft approved by HD SEC(AS)	Signature or Initials	Contact Tel No	Question copied by Action Division to:
SEC(AS)1	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Secretary of State			
Minister(AF)			Answer copied to:- As above plus: SO/ACAS AUS(C) DPR(RAF) DDGE/AEW Sec(NATO/UK)(C) DI55
Minister(DP)			
Minister(DS)			
US of S(DP)			

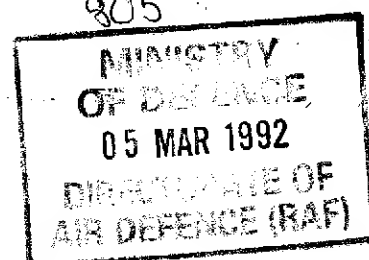
Type of Question:- ~~First Order Oral (No .....~~ Non Priority Written;  
 Supplementary Questions are not required.

Please type Member's name, party, constituency and Question here

Mr George Foulkes (Labour)(Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley): To  
 ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a  
 statement on the number of unidentified supersonic radar contacts  
 detected in the vicinity of RAF Machrihanish since January.

DRAFT ANSWER

There have been no unidentified supersonic radar contacts  
 detected in the vicinity of RAF Machrihanish since January.



BACKGROUND NOTE: PQ6007

1. This Question is one of four prompted by a recent article in the Scotsman speculating that a secret American aircraft has been operating around RAF Machrihanish. A copy of the background note supporting the draft answers to PQs 5983, 5979 and 6048 is attached.

2. Mr Foulkes would appear to be trying to establish whether any secret supersonic aircraft have been operating from RAF Machrihanish, as alleged in the Scotsman article. However, his Question asks only about unidentified radar contacts since January and the Scotsman article refers to an alleged unidentified contact in November 1991.

3. The draft Answer is self-explanatory.

[REDACTED]

BACKGROUND NOTE - PQs 5983F and 5979F

1. These two questions from Martin Redmond MP and a third (due for answer later this week) from George Foulkes MP have probably been prompted by a recent article in the Scotsman speculating that "America's most secret aircraft has been operating in Scottish airspace" near RAF Machrihanish. The aircraft is alleged to be a "very high supersonic, possibly hypersonic" aircraft code-named "Aurora", and to be the "ultra-secret replacement" for the SR-71 Blackbird reconnaissance aircraft. Copies of the Scotsman article and a follow-up article in Jane's Defence Weekly are attached at Annex A. A copy of a minute sent to APS/Secretary of State in reply to a request for advice on the former article is attached at Annex B.
  
2. The last SR-71 left the UK from RAF Mildenhall in January 1990 - this is public knowledge - and HQ 3rd Air Force advise that there have been no further visits to the UK. HQ3AF and the US Embassy have also confirmed that no secret new US aircraft has operated in Scottish airspace. The draft answer to PQ 5979F demonstrates that no unusual aircraft (apart from an Antonov) landed at RAF Machrihanish in the past year.
  
3. There may or may not be an Aurora project. There is no knowledge in MOD of a "black" programme of this nature, although it would not surprise the relevant desk officers in the Air Staff and DIS if it did exist. The simple answer to PQ 5983F (about what assistance the MOD has given to the US project) would therefore be "none" - but this pre-supposes the existence of the project. Nor would we be likely to be prepared to say publicly if any MOD assistance had been given to such a project. To answer instead that we have no knowledge of any such project is also arguably inappropriate, since in circumstances where we were aware we would probably not be prepared to say so. It is therefore suggested that the question is answered by saying that the existence of any such project (or operation) would be a matter for the US authorities - "would be" rather than "is" to avoid any implication that the project exists.

on in the month since the Usher Hall event to focus sharply on independence — and not on whether it is possible or impossible, but whether it is desirable.

The shadow Scottish secretary, Donald Dewar, said that "Scotland can have independence if Scotland wants it", but took every opportunity to attack the nationalist case.

He said that independence with a separate Scottish currency would pose unnecessary burdens on Scotland and reduce its home market from 50 million to five million people.

The SNP leader, Alex Salmond, countered that Scot-

Both Mr Dewar and the Scottish Liberal Democrat leader, Malcolm Bruce, bitterly criticised Mr Lang for arguing that Scotland had no choice of between independence and the present system.

Mr Bruce said that Spain, France and Italy had all moved to decentralise power and argued that Scottish home rule would lead to a federal Britain.

Mr Lang clung to his assertion that Labour and Liberal Democrat plans for a Scottish parliament would be so unstable that they would cause the UK to break up.

Minister's speech; TV in the chair, Page 6

## Hot on the trail of America's biggest flying secret

By Alan Dron

REPORTS of mysterious, fast-moving radar blips and strange engine sounds have heightened speculation that America's most secret aircraft has been operating in Scottish airspace.

According to reports reaching *The Scotsman*, an RAF air traffic controller was startled to see a radar blip emerge from the area of the joint NATO-RAF station at Machrihanish at approximately three times the speed of sound.

Puzzled, he phoned the remote base near the tip of the Kintyre peninsula to inquire what type of aircraft was being operated — and was promptly told to forget what he had just seen.

At around the same time in November last year, there was a report from nine miles away from the base of an unusual, car-splitting jet noise...

While the clues are sketchy,

they fit with what little is already known of a shadowy project called Aurora.

Aurora is believed to refer to the ultra-secret replacement for the high-altitude, Mach 3 SR-71 Blackbird reconnaissance aircraft. Reports of a "stealthy" Blackbird successor have been circulating since the mid-1980s.

It is another product of Lockheed's notorious "Skunk Works" in Burbank, California. This secrecy-shrouded plant has designed the U-2, SR-71 and the F-117A Stealth fighter.

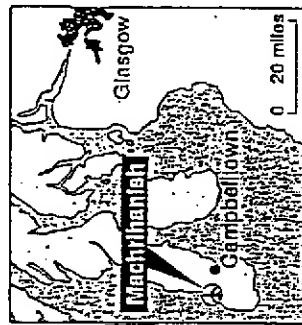
In 1990, just after the SR-71's retirement, the Lockheed Advanced Development Company president, Ben Rich, told *Jane's Defence Weekly*: "There is a need for some vehicle. — I didn't say SR-71 — to complement the satellites. I won't tell you what it is, but there is a need."

Told of the Scottish reports, Bill Sweetman, technical edi-

'It's been described as a noise that people don't forget when they hear it'

Bill Sweetman

tor of Jane's Information Group and an authority on Stealth aircraft technology, said: "That's very interesting. The last time I received a call out of the blue from a Scottish journalist was about five years ago. He was talking about



POLITICAL leaders in Ireland were last night urged to seek a review of the law as a judge, barred a pregnant schoolgirl who had been raped from having an abortion in Britain.

There were calls for the resignation of the Irish attorney general, Flarry Whelehan, who initiated the legal moves to block the abortion, and the Irish Family Planning Association called for the review of the law.

The case of the 14-year-old girl was held in camera at the Irish High Court but the text of the judgment disclosed that

the rape had been committed last December.

The 16-page ruling also revealed that rapist was the father of the girl's best friend.

It was believed an appeal to the Dublin Supreme Court could be heard later this week after the High Court's confirmation of an injunction preventing the teenager's seeking a termination in Britain.

Proinsias De Rossa, the opposition Workers' Party leader, said the ruling would deter future rape victims from reporting the crime to police.

Full story, Page 2

PROPOSALS to combat flooding in Badenoch could prove disastrous for two of Scotland's most important wildlife sites, the Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland claimed yesterday, writes Frank Urquhart.

Both schemes being considered by Highland Regional Council would have a detrimental impact on the environment of the Insh Marshes, part of the River Spey flood plain, and the gravel fan of the nearby River Feshie, a report commissioned by the NCC has concluded.

Full report, Page 9

Range airfield, 170 miles north-west of Las Vegas. It was the initial base for the F-117 Stealth fighter, which the US Air Force managed to keep hidden from prying eyes for seven years until 1988, through a combination of the airfield's remoteness and the simple tactic of flying it only at night.

Mr Sweetman added that the Machrihanish reports of a fast-moving radar contact and of an extremely noisy aircraft fitted in with information from the US. "It's been described as a noise that people don't forget when they hear it," he said. Several had described it as being "like the sky ripping open". The MoD was last night still checking to see whether it had any record of a visit by a Blackbird successor. The Pentagon was closed for a US holiday.

"They've been able to build up the track of the boom ... and tracking Mach 3 values back to Nevada," Mr Sweetman said. "That all adds to the suspicion that there's a very high supersonic, possibly hypersonic, aircraft called Aurora that we don't know about."

For several years, Stealth-watchers' attention has been focused deep on the Nevada desert and the Tonopah Test

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29/12

Amex A

## French firm's new missile

### SINGAPORE

Aerospatiale was due to unveil its MM 15 anti-ship missile at the Asian Aerospace exhibition in Singapore which opened on 25 February.

The ship-launched missile has been developed in the last three months, according to officials from Aerospatiale's tactical missiles division (Engins Tactics).

The MM 15, derived from the AS 15 TT air-launched weapon system, is designed to meet the growing demand for conventional lightweight weapons to destroy small surface targets within the 8-15 km range.

"Our new MM 15 missile will be offered as a direct competitor to the British Aerospace Dynamics ship-launched Sea Skua," a company official said.

According to Aerospatiale, the MM 15 could fill the gap between the shorter range (8 km) light naval artillery and long range tactical anti-ship missiles such as Exocet (20 km).

"In the 8-15 km gap, there is no effective conventional method of dealing with small targets which do not justify the use of Exocet."

MM 15 has a maximum effective range of 15 km, a maximum speed of Mach 0.9 and weighs 103 kg with a 30 kg warhead, says Aerospatiale. The light weight allows operation by small, fast surface vessels.

The MM 15 has no homing head but is guided by a radar-beam command-guidance technique via the Thomson-CSF AGRION 15 (X-band, pulse-compression) guidance radar installed on the platform.

The radar is used with the AS 15 TT helicopter missile system in service with the French, Saudi Arabian and Bahraini navies. It tracks both target and missile and computes the error in range and bearing between them.

# Mystery contact may be Aurora

### RECONNAISSANCE

BY BILL SWEETMAN

MINNEAPOLIS

Stealth Fighter lend credence to the new reports.

Meanwhile, the California booms are the first substantial, corroborated evidence of unidentified supersonic aircraft operating over the USA.

On at least four occasions, sonic booms have registered on some of the 220 sensors across Southern California. From the Los Angeles basin to the eastern edge of the Mojave desert, according to Jim Mori, a USGS seismologist at the California Institute of Technology. The incidents were recorded in June, October, November and late January. The seismologists estimate that the targets were flying at speeds between Mach 3 and Mach 4.

So far, all the tracks have been headed north and east over the Los Angeles basin, pointing directly to southern Nevada, 500 km away. Most secret US

Air Force activities, including the large flight-test base at Groom Lake, are within the Nellis range in Nevada. Since the range is only 8 min from Los Angeles at such speeds, the targets were presumably decelerating as they crossed the coast.

The USGS first noticed that its seismographs could detect sonic booms when they registered space shuttle landings at Edwards AFB, California.

Mori says the wave-forms detected in the latest incidents are characteristic of a smaller vehicle than the 37 m long shuttle orbiter. Neither the shuttle nor the single SR-71B which NASA maintains in flight status were operating on the days the booms were detected.

Reports that USAF is developing hypersonic aircraft in undisclosed 'black' programmes date back to the mid-1980s. In early 1988, the *New York Times* reported that a Mach 6, stealthy reconnaissance aircraft called Aurora was being developed to replace the SR-71, which was retired in early 1990.

More recently, witnesses in Nevada and California have reported hearing extremely loud or 'pulsing' noises caused by unidentified aircraft.

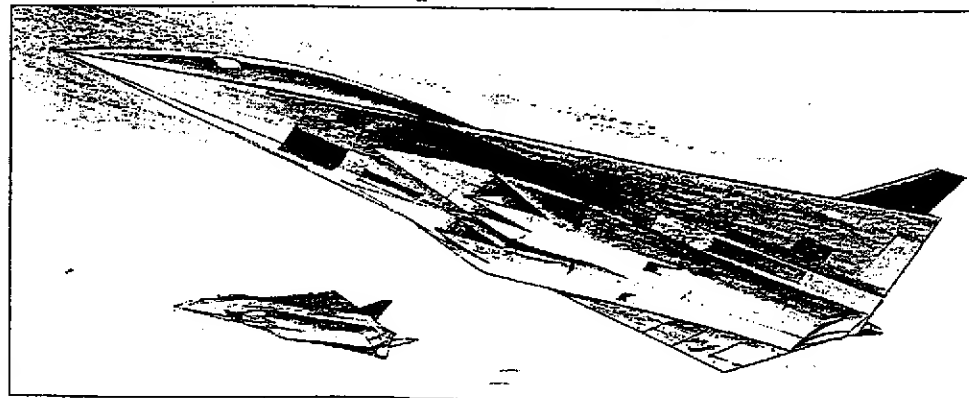
Mounting evidence suggests that the US Government has secretly developed and deployed a hypersonic reconnaissance aircraft, probably as a replacement for the SR-71.

A Royal Air Force air traffic controller tracked a target leaving the NATO-RAF base at Machrihanish, Scotland, at an estimated speed of Mach 3 last November, according to *The Scotsman* newspaper last week. Another witness heard an extremely loud jet noise near the base around the same time, it said.

In the USA, highly supersonic aircraft believed to be operating from Nevada have been detected and tracked by seismological sensors installed by the US Geological Service (USGS). The booms were first recorded in June last year.

Machrihanish is one of the most remote bases in Europe, located near the tip of the Kintyre peninsula in Western Scotland. Recent base modernization and a rumoured association with the F-117

*Is this Aurora? Artist's impression of a Mach 6 reconnaissance aircraft incorporating ejector ramjet engine fuelled by liquid methane or hydrogen. Stealth would be maintained through ceramic radar absorbent material able to withstand the fierce temperatures encountered at hypersonic speeds (Julian Cook)*





[REDACTED]

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)26/8

19 February 1992

APS/Secretary of State

Copy to:  
PSO/ACAS  
A/D Air Off  
Sec(NATO/UK)(C)2

REDACTIONS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT



RAF MACHRIHANISH - SCOTSMAN ARTICLE

1. You asked for advice on the article in yesterday's Scotsman which speculated that "America's most secret aircraft has been operating in Scottish airspace", near RAF Machrihanish. The aircraft is alleged to be a "very high supersonic, possibly hypersonic" aircraft code-named "Aurora", and to be the "ultra-secret replacement" for the SR-71 Blackbird reconnaissance aircraft.
  2. The last SR-71 left the UK from RAF Mildenhall in January 1990 - this is public knowledge - and HQ 3rd Air Force advise that there have been no further visits to the UK.
  3. There may or may not be an Aurora project. I can find no one on the Air Staff or at desk level in the DIS who knows for sure that such a project exists, but it would not surprise them if it did. However, until the Americans wish to trial or operate the new aircraft in UK airspace this is arguably a matter only for them. If you wish to pursue this aspect further, your best course may be to consult CDI's organisation.
  4. On the question of whether a secret new aircraft has operated in Scottish airspace, I am on firmer ground. HQ3AF and the US Embassy advise that this aspect of the Scotsman story is unfounded, and this is confirmed by the Air Staff.
  5. The press office have been advised not to comment on the Scotsman article (on the grounds that if any such aircraft did exist and had been operating in the UK we would refuse to
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
comment). HQ3AF advise that there has been no further press  
interest in the article at their end.

REDACTIONS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Original signed.

[REDACTED]  
Sec(AS)1  
[REDACTED]  
  
[REDACTED]

Section 40



In one of the papers for release to Dr Clarke dated 25 August 1995 it states in a paragraph about DI55c's role and views on UFOs

***"For some years DI55 have been under general remit to advise on "UAPs" but that due to lack of resources they have not been able to study the reports we send over to them, and the reports were merely glanced at and placed on file".***

This then leads on to a paragraph about Section 40 (DI55c) view that ***"it was not possible to advise on the possible threat implications of UAPs unless a short study into the subject was conducted to determine whether there is any firm evidence that UAPs exist and if so whether they pose any threat"***.

We are a little concerned that this could be interpreted to mean that DIS had some concerns about the threat to the UK from UAPs but did not have the resources to look at them properly. Please could you let me know if you would be content for this to be released? If you would like to see the whole document to put this in to context, please let me know and I will fax it over. In the meantime, Dr Clarke has been told that it is withheld while we consult with a third party.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

25 April 2005



## AUTHORISATION FOR THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Applicant: Dr David Clarke

Case Number: 21-01-2005-083912-001

Expiry: 17 February 2005

### The Applicant has made the following request for information:

1. A copy of the entire file D/Sec(AS)12/1 Part A – UFO Policy 1985-1995
2. Copies of five documents from D/Sec(AS)64/1 Parts A and B. Also copies of any documents following in this sequence, specifically relating to the outcome of DIST's intention to produce a database of UFO reports.
3. Copies of any correspondence, material or information relating to DIST's decision in October 2000 to no longer receive UFO material copied from DAS.
4. In addition to this information Dr Clarke also asked two questions relating to information he had already been sent in response to previous requests made under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.
5. Dr Clarke asked two additional questions on 10 March 2005 regarding UFO FOI requests and the FOIA Reading Room.
6. On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2005 Dr Clarke asked two additional questions regarding previous requests and correspondence.

### Case for release of information

This request has taken longer to complete due to the necessity to consult other departments about release of some of this information. Although DIS have indicated that they are content to release the information generated by them, much of it was classified as Secret and they have yet to downgrade it. **Section 40** (DI ST AM ALM AD) has assured me that we should get a response by the end of this week. **Section 40** (Info-Records1) has confirmed he has no objection to the release of policy documents he has generated and the Cabinet Office have authorised the release of their documents at D/Sec(AS)12/1 Part A - Enclosure 131/2. In order to avoid further delay I propose to send Dr Clarke the information that is available at this time and temporarily withhold those documents which require downgrading.

**Section 40** telephoned Dr Clarke in March to provide an update of progress and Dr Clarke sent another e-mail on 10 March asking two additional questions. These were answered when I provided a written update to Dr Clarke on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Dr Clarke sent another e-mail on 18<sup>th</sup> March asking two further questions. I telephoned Dr Clarke yesterday (18 April) to provide a further update.

I propose we now release the following information in response to Dr Clarke's request.

1. A copy of file D/Sec(AS)12/1 Part A as requested. Five documents are to be withheld in accordance with DPA98. Four of these contain information which is personal to Mr Pope and one contains information personal to another individual who was employed by MOD. Two documents have not been supplied as they are copies of other documents on the file. Seven documents are classified and temporarily withheld while we seek authority to downgrade them for release. Personal data and original security classifications have been removed from all the released papers.

2. Copies of four of the requested documents have been provided. One is temporarily withheld awaiting downgrading by DIS. Three further related papers have been located and these are also temporarily withheld awaiting downgrading.

3. DIST have supplied a copy of their loose minute dated December 2000 which details their reasons for no longer receiving UFO reports. This is currently classified Secret UK Eyes Only and this is temporarily withheld awaiting their authority to downgrade.

4. One of these questions was answered in my e-mail message of 17<sup>th</sup> March and the other is answered in the attached draft letter.

5. These two questions were answered in full in my e-mail message of 17<sup>th</sup> March.

6. These two questions are answered in full in the attached draft letter.

7. In addition to information requested on this occasion we now have US authority to release two documents requested by Dr Clarke under the Code. These have also been included with these documents.

Please see attached a draft letter to Dr Clarke, plus the information referred to above, and a submission to PS/PUS.

#### Authorisation

I hereby give authorisation for the release of the aforementioned information to the Applicant. — *Subject to approval from PUS.*

Grade/Rank: *B2* ..... Name: Section 40 .....

Authorisation Reference Number: DAS-FOI 25/05.....

Date: *20<sup>th</sup> April 05* .....





## **ENCLOSURE 146/1**

**Withheld in accordance with the Data Protection  
Act 1998.**

Jul 95  
#12/1.

Head of Sec(AS)

146/1

Section 40



Section 40




Section 40

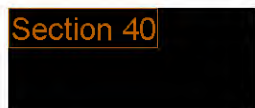


We spoke and agreed to wait until we had formed a view on the revised manuscript. We might then copy this item, with our advice, to CTS divisions.

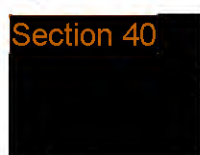
Section 40



Section 40



Section 40



have you seen this?

WHITEHALL SHOCK AS ITS CHIEF ALIEN-WATCHER ADMITS: I BELIEVE IN UFOs

# ET lives, says man from the Ministry

IT WAS the week when John Redwood's earthly origins were called into doubt and Mr Spock pointy ears were given away by the thousand.

So it will come as no surprise that one of Whitehall's finest has succumbed to the power of aliens.

Nick Pope headed the Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a office, with a brief to deal with inquiries about flying saucers and other unexplained phenomena.

It was his calm voice which reassured the many members of the public who called to report strange lights in the sky or little green men on the lawn.

But, in possibly the most embarrassing turnaround in Ministry of Defence history, Mr Pope has gone over to the other side.

To the horror of his

By Nick Fielding

employers, the 29-year-old civil servant, who now works in another part of the Ministry, has become a convert.

'I think it is fair to say that in my three years as the Government expert on UFOs, I was regarded as a bit of a maverick,' said Mr Pope.

## Menace

'I came into that job as an open-minded sceptic and I came out a believer.'

As if that were not enough, the errant ufologist is to publish a book based on his experiences as Britain's first line of defence in the undeclared war against the alien menace.

Provisionally titled *Open Skies, Closed Minds: Official Reactions To The UFO Phenomenon*, the book is unlikely to win him

many friends at the Ministry.

In fact, his bosses have already expressed their displeasure at his manuscript, for which he must get permission before publication.

The book examines all the available records in the Whitehall archives, and talks about a number of new cases.

But Mr Pope offers little comfort for UFO buffs seeking proof of a Government cover-up.

'We don't throw open our files en bloc, but eventually most of them filter down to the Public Record Office.'

Mr Pope cannot pinpoint the moment of his conversion, but he rules out an alien plot.

He says he was convinced by the details of a small number of British sightings which have so far defied conventional explanation.

'Probably the best example is the Rendlesham Forest case in December 1980, where

some kind of object came down in Suffolk near the RAF bases at Woodbridge and Bentwaters.

'This is now regarded as the best attested case of a UFO crash outside the US.'

Mr Pope's conversion is likely to cause a sensation among committed ufologists.

Graham Birdsall,

editor of UFO Magazine, said: 'I welcome the bravery of a man who must have experienced tremendous pressure from his superiors, but who stuck to his views.'

The MoD refused to comment on Mr Pope.

But surely the men from the Ministry are wishing that someone, somewhere, would beam him up.



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: UFO convert Nick Pope

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# Scanners of the alien nation

**D**ON'T call me a fruitcake, but listen: on a warm summer's day at the age of eight, I lay on my back on the grassy playing fields, looked up and saw an unidentified flying object. A tiny triangular glint in the sky. My chums saw it, too. The local paper got wind and there was a little column, dripping sarcasm. The little green men were coming to take us kids away. Jeer on, but I had seen something. What it was, who knows?

This event hovered back into my mind last week in a Whitehall wine bar while talking to the British Government's foremost expert on UFOs. Nick Pope is a civil servant who has spent four years analysing reports of sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects for the Ministry of Defence. He is a sane, cautious, bespectacled 29-year-old, 10 years at the MoD. He speaks in the carefully draughted idiom of the Whitehall memo, emphasising that his beliefs are personal, not those of the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo — himself rumoured not to be as other earthmen.

'From 1991 to 1994 I worked in the Secretariat (Air Staff) 2A. I was the MoD's UFO desk officer. I came into that job with an open mind. After having seen all the evidence and the expert testimony, I came out of that job believing that a very small percentage of what are commonly termed UFOs may well be extraterrestrial in origin.'

Had he ever seen a UFO, I asked him? 'No,' came clean about my experience. He looked at me, the unbelieve, with something approaching to his eyes.



Spooky-wooky millennium: Be it UFOs, tremors or the visions of the electrically disturbed, our search for aliens has a religious fervour about it.

The Observer  
13 August 1995

Section 40

Sec(AS)2 14/8/95

coverage

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Suit at the MOD, but no longer on the UFO desk, Pope has suffered for his views. His nickname in the MOD is 'Spooky', that of Fox Mulder, a character in the cult TV series *X-Files*. When he walks along the corridor, fellow civil servants whistle the theme from Steven Spielberg's film, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. His chances of becoming a permanent under-secretary have dimmed. And yet: 'We received between 2,000 and 3,000 UFO reports each year. We knew this was the tip of the iceberg because most people didn't know how to report a UFO, that is who to contact, or they were afraid of the ridicule.'

Among those 2,000 to 3,000 reports we always figured that 95 per cent could be explained away in terms of known objects or phenomena. I know all the explanations: flocks of geese, aircraft lights, satellites, meteors, fireballs, ball lightning, lasers and searchlights reflecting off low cloud, hoaxes. There is still this 5 per cent that you can't explain, that defy explanation. His book on UFOs, provisionally entitled *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, will be published by Simon and Schuster in June 1996.

The absurdist comedy of the MOD's own UFO-watcher turning from sceptic to (qualified) believer speaks to the spooky-woo-woo spirit of the millennium. Now that God, who once wound our sundials, is thought to be dead, human awe has turned to UFO sightings and even alien abductions — in the jargon, *Close*

Encounters of the Fourth Kind. Next weekend the British UFO Research Association will host its eighth International UFO Congress to discuss these and other UFO events. It is sold out. Later this month, Channel 4 will screen a controversial film of an alien autopsy, allegedly shot after the UFO crash at Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947.

Pope has seen the footage: 'I found it gruesome and unpleasant, but then I'd never seen an autopsy before. There were 100 people in the auditorium at the Museum of London. The atmosphere was jokey for a minute, but as the autopsy started and the humans cut up the aliens there was a lot of uneasy shuffling and muffled cries of "Oh, my God!"'

The best documented British UFO sighting, the Rendlesham Forest incident, rests on a sober memo headed 'Unexplained Lights', dated 13 January 1981. It is signed by Lt Col Charles I. Halt of the US Air Force. Halt and his officers saw a pulsing, metallic, triangular object which sent nearby farm animals into a frenzy and left above-background radiation levels in three holes in the ground.

The best documented American UFO sighting is the Roswell incident in 1947. The best abduction features a four-way alien pick-up, involving Manhattanologist Linda Napollitano, two anonymous security guards and the 'Third Man' — a cover name purportedly to protect the identity of the then UN Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.

## THE OBSERVER ESSAY

John Sweeney

The UFO Research Association hosts its eighth Congress on Saturday. It is sold out, and reports from the final frontier say business is better than ever.

His Excellency denies the abduction. The old saw, Occam's razor — 'No more things should be presumed to exist than are absolutely necessary' — slices up the little green men better than Channel 4's autopsy.

This is not to say that the people who report UFOs are bonkers. Ordinary people do witness such things as bright lights in the sky and should not be lightly mocked: so do military officers, who supply the best-authenticated cases. But there is a battery of good reasons explaining why UFO sightings and reported abductions — even Pope's 5 per cent — have more to do with the vagaries of the human mind than with aliens.

None of this is a match for the first law of storytelling: the exciting explanation will always drive out the boring.

First, bright lights in the sky. Psychologist Michael Persinger, of Canada's Laurentian University, has noted a big statistical correlation between flying saucer

reports and earth tremors. He has speculated that electro-magnetic pulses, released by the shifting of the earth's tectonic plates, could stimulate images in the mind's eye — the brain's temporal lobe. This would also account for the cutting off of a car's electricity.

Professor Ashley Grossman of Bart's agrees: 'There is an increasing amount of evidence that electro-magnetic pulses can affect brain function. *In vitro* research suggests that there is some sort of sensory perception — you could call it a sixth sense — which some animals have. The brain works on electricity. It's rather like taking your credit card near a large magnet. If someone had a low threshold for temporal lobe epilepsy and seizure, an electro-magnetic pulse could fire off hallucinations.'

But temporal lobe epilepsy can be the first manifestation of a brain tumour. Prof Grossman warns: 'Anyone who sees a UFO or has a semi-mystical experience

should have a brain scan. Of course, some experiences could be put down to hysteria. But there could be an underlying biological abnormality triggering the hallucinations.'

Looking back, visions of the Virgin could have been prompted by bio-abnormality. Joan of Arc famously took a long time to burn — maybe as a result of calcified lungs caused by tuberculosis. Had TB reached her brain, it could have triggered the visions. And never underestimate autosuggestion, the phenomenon which drove the Salem Witches and may be responsible for Pérez de Cuéllar's 'trip'.

Second, Rendlesham. Let's presume Halt and the other Americans saw something in the sky, something which left a radioactive spot in the forest. Why need it come from outer space? The Pentagon's ultra-secret Black Budget has been responsible for all sorts of weird lights in the sky, clocked by military men such as Halt who would not have been security-cleared for the programme. The post-Streith bomber, Project Aurora, is currently whizzing around the world being mistaken for a UFO.

Third, Roswell. The UFO air crash is a 'bunch of horse pucky' according to one sceptic, Irving 'Newt' Newton. What actually crashed in 1947 was another secret Pentagon wheeze, Project Mogul, a high altitude balloon checking for radiation from Soviet atomic bombs.

Fourth, the Channel 4 hoax. The curiously humanoid shape

of the aliens under the knit chimneys with a line from Thomas Aquinas: 'Angels need an assumed body, not for themselves, but on our account.'

Anatomist Paul O'Higgins of University College, London, who has seen the film, says the aliens 'have our anatomy, plus a collection of relatively common anatomical anomalies: the six digits, the enlarged brain case which you get with hydrocephalus, distended abdomen, lack of umbilicus, membranes over the eyes — easy to do with plasticine. The chance that aliens would look like us by accident are remote.'

The writer Philip Knightley famously objected, prior to its publication, to the Hitler Diaries hoax played on the *Sunday Times*. Knightley's memo is a classic of journalistic rigour. He asked: 'How thoroughly has the vendor explained where the diaries have been all these years and why they have surfaced now... The crux of the matter is that secrecy and speed work for the con man.'

Thus far, Channel 4 has not released any verifiable detail on the origins of the film — bad scepticism but great showbiz. The Observer bets Channel 4 showman-in-chief Michael Grade a case of anipodenan, H-bomb-free champagne the Roswell film will be proved to be a hoax before the year is out.



**ENCLOSURE 145+1**

**Withheld in accordance with the Data Protection  
Act 1998**

SECRET

Section 40

To be aware file with  
previous

1

→ 12/1  
+ 20/4

145+1

Head of Sec(AS)

Section 40



WHITEHALL SHOCK AS ITS CHIEF ALIEN-WATCHER ADMITS: I BELIEVE IN UFOs

# ET lives, says man from the Ministry

By Nick Fielding

IT WAS the week when John Redwood's earthly origins were called into doubt and Mr Spock pointy ears were given away by the thousand.

So it will come as no surprise that one of Whitehall's finest has succumbed to the power of aliens.

Nick Pope headed the Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a office, with a brief to deal with inquiries about flying saucers and other unexplained phenomena.

It was his calm voice which reassured the many members of the public who called to report strange lights in the sky or little green men on the lawn.

But, in possibly the most embarrassing turnaround in Ministry of Defence history, Mr Pope has gone over to the other side.

To the horror of his

employers, the 29-year-old civil servant, who now works in another part of the Ministry, has become a convert.

'I think it is fair to say that in my three years as the Government expert on UFOs, I was regarded as a bit of a maverick,' said Mr Pope.

## Menace

'I came into that job as an open-minded sceptic and I came out a believer.'

As if that were not enough, the errant ufologist is to publish a book based on his experiences as Britain's first line of defence in the undeclared war against the alien menace.

Provisionally titled *Open Skies, Closed Minds: Official Reactions To The UFO Phenomenon*, the book is unlikely to win him

many friends at the Ministry.

In fact, his bosses have already expressed their displeasure at his manuscript, for which he must get permission before publication.

The book examines all the available records in the Whitehall archives, and talks about a number of new cases.

But Mr Pope offers little comfort for UFO buffs seeking proof of a Government cover-up.

'We don't throw open our files en bloc, but eventually most of them filter down to the Public Record Office.'

Mr Pope cannot pinpoint the moment of his conversion, but he rules out an alien plot.

He says he was convinced by the details of a small number of British sightings which have so far defied conventional explanation.

'Probably the best example is the Rendlesham Forest case in December 1980 where

some kind of object came down in Suffolk near the RAF bases at Woodbridge and Bentwaters.

'This is now regarded as the best attested case of a UFO crash outside the US.'

Mr Pope's conversion is likely to cause a sensation among committed ufologists.

Graham Birdsall,

editor of UFO Magazine, said: 'I welcome the bravery of a man who must have experienced tremendous pressure from his superiors, but who stuck to his views.'

The MoD refused to comment on Mr Pope.

But surely the men from the Ministry are wishing that someone, somewhere, would beam him up.



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: UFO convert Nick Pope

Midland Bank plc is regulated by the Prudential Supervision Authority and only advises on its own life assurance, pensions and unit trusts. AD/83



MIDLAND

MOS 27

telephone

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: UFO convert Nick Pope



MIDLAND

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## **ENCLOSURE 144/1**

**Withheld in accordance with the Data Protection  
Act 1998**



Section 40

As discussed

→ 12/11

I'll talk you thru this.



Following the issuing of this ~~stat~~  
statement Section 40 any  
book and send out of interest  
that Fielding said

Section 40

So it looks like Section 40  
spoken to Nick Fielding.

We await the Mail on Sunday  
with interest.

→ 30 JUN 95

## **ENCLOSURE 144+2**

**Withheld in accordance with the Data Protection  
Act 1998**



→ 12/1

144+2

MAIL ON SUNDAY - NICK POPE

- Late on Wednesday (27 Jun), I received a telephone call from Nick FIELDING of the Mail on Sunday asking to speak to Nick Pope. I explained that Nick had left last July and asked if it was a personal or work matter as I was his successor.

- He explained that he had had contact with Nick in the past and it was really a personal matter he supposed because he wanted to talk to Nick about his book.

- As it was after 1700 hrs, and I knew Nick would have gone home, as well as the fact that I did not want to give Nick's telephone number to FIELDING, I said I would pass a message on and Nick would get in touch if he wanted to.

- FIELDING then started asking some questions and I told him as a member of the Press he should address any queries via the Press Office.

- I sent Nick an E-Mail telling him of the call and that I had not given FIELDING his telephone number. I told Section 40 contact and he suggested that I tip Section 40 off, and Martin Fuller, which I did.

- Thu afternoon Section 40 called. FIELDING had contacted the Press Office and they had had a little chat. He knew that Nick had found a publisher and had submitted his transcript in accordance with the MOD guidelines. His specific questions were:

"How does the Ministry of Defence feel about one of its officials publishing a book on flying saucers?" and

"Are the likely to be any problems with the clearance of the book?"

Section 40 together a form of general form of words regarding the rules governing all MOD employees who wish to publish such a book, and that we would not comment on any specific cases and they were a private matter between the individual concerned and the Department. This was cleared by PCB(Air) and CM(IR). Section 40 copied this to Section 40

- I told Section 40 not to be drawn and not to say anything other than the line we had given him. I had to let him know a bit of background about the saga with Nick to date. I went to great lengths to stress that a decision about the book had not been taken, and that it was under active consideration.

- Await Sunday with interest.....

Withhold

Pope Personal.

→ 30 JUN 95

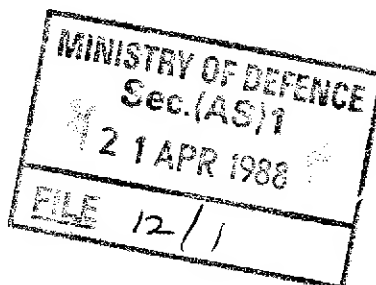


## **ENCLOSURES 22 & 23**

**Withheld in accordance with the Data Protection  
Act 1998.**

Section 40

E 23



Section 40

2/4

2/4

At Last!

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DSc(Air)/60/2/10

19 April 88

DIFS (RAF)

EMPLOYMENT OF Section 40 ON IFS (RAF) PROJECT

Reference A: LM D/IFS/(RAF)/68/14/14 19th Apr 1988

1. It is confirmed that Section 40 will be available for this work between 25 Apr 88 and 26 Aug 88 and that the project final report is requested by 5 Aug 88.
2. The project would be suitable for Section 40 to undertake as part of his placement, in that his experience on a previous project in Science 3 (Air) has involved understanding the requirements of a modern database system, and devising techniques for the recording and analysis of imprecise data. The principal requirement is that the work he does is available for assessment by his academic supervisors, and this endorses the security level suggested.
3. The Science 3 (Air) tasking number for this work is 13/88. Details are given at ANNEX A attached.
4. The point of contact in Science 3 (Air) for the personnel management of Section 40 will be Section 40
5. Para 5. of Reference A refers to the need for some travel within the UK. I trust that this travel will be funded by DIFS.

Section 40

AD/Science 3c (Air)

Section 40

Copies:

D Science (Air)  
Sec (AS) 2



19-APR-88

## SCIENCE 3(AIR) TASK LIST

Title: REPLACEMENT PANDORA CODING SHEET

Task No: 13/88  
Sheet Updated To:  
Priority: 1

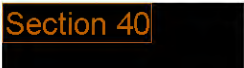
Date of Tasking: 19-APR-88

Tasking Reference: D/IFS(RAF)/68/14/14

## SPONSOR INFORMATION

Unit/Branch: IFS(RAF)  
Tasking Officer: GpCapt Section 40  
Point of Contact: FS ADP (RAF)  
Sponsor Aid: Yes

## SCIENCE 3 INFORMATION

Science 3 Ref: D/Sc(Air)/  
Location of Study: Adastral+Fieldwor  
Special Facilities:None  
Study Leader: Section 40  
Study Staff: 

## TASK OBJECTIVES

Determine needs and format for a coding system of aircraft accident data to replace the existing PANDORA and produce report.

## PLANNED MILESTONES

19-APR-88	Task commenced
05-AUG-88	Final Report draft due

Estimated Duration (mths):4.00      Staff Effort (man/mths):4.00

Required Completion Date: 05-AUG-88      Actual Completion Date:

## PROGRESS REPORTS

The current status code of this project is : 0



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 22 April 2005 08:15

To: Section 40

Subject: RE: Freedom of Information Request

Thanks Section 40 that looks fine. Please go ahead. Regards, Section 40

Section 40

PS/PUS

Section 40

External e-mail: Section 40@mod.uk

External telephone: Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 22 April 2005 08:14

To: Section 40

Subject: Freedom of Information Request

Importance: High

Section 40

Please find attached a request for approval to release information on UFOs. I have not attached the documents for release because there are a large number of them and they are not held electronically, but please let me know if you wish to see them.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

22/04/2005

D/DAS/10/2/8/13

21 April 2005



**PS/PUS (e-mail: PUS-Private Office)**

**Clearance of FOI Request – 21-01-2005-083912-001**

**Issue**

1. The partial release of information in response to an FOI request from Dr David Clarke on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects.

**Recommendation**

2. That PUS approves the release of the information requested.

**Timing**

3. Due to the amount of information requested and the need to consult other departments, this request has already exceeded the deadline. I would therefore appreciate a response as soon as possible. We have kept Dr Clarke continuously informed of progress.

**Background**

4. In PUS' minute of 5 April 2005 (D/PUS/13/6(144) concerning the Management of FOI requests during the Election period, it was stated that all responses to such requests, where full or partial release of information was proposed, should be cleared by PUS.
5. Dr Clarke is a Doctor of Culture and Tradition at Sheffield University and a regular correspondent on the subject of UFOs. He made many requests under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code) and some of the information provided on this occasion is a continuation of those requests. On this occasion Dr Clarke has requested a full copy of one of our Policy files on UFOs, a number of specific documents and associated papers from other files and copies of documents concerning a policy decision made by DIS. He has also asked four additional questions.
6. Some of the requested documents were classified by DIS when created and these have been returned to them for downgrading. Dr Clarke has been informed that these are temporarily withheld awaiting this authority. Four documents have been withheld in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. These include three containing personal data about a former member of this department and the other concerns another individual employed by the MOD. Personal data has also been removed from all the documents to be released.

7. Since the introduction of the Code and the FOIA a large amount of information about UFOs has been released, much of it as a result of requests made by Dr Clarke. We have developed a good relationship with this researcher who takes a sensible approach to this subject. Based on the information we have provided he frequently publishes well researched articles which dismiss conspiracy theories and does much to bring balance to the public debate.

8. DIS, Info-Records and the Cabinet Office have been consulted before release of documents which originated in their areas.

### **Presentation**

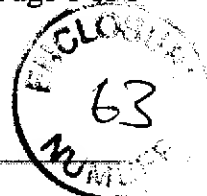
9. There is frequent press and media coverage about UFOs, but these documents are specific to Dr Clarke's personal research and we have no reason to believe that their release will generate any additional interest. We do not propose to publish this information in the Reading Room at this time.

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information

Section 40

DII: DAS-FOI



Section 40

From: david clarke Section 40

Sent: 15 April 2005 14:17

To: Section 40

Cc:

Subject: FOIA request

Dear Section 40

I wonder if you could provide an update on progress in dealing with my FOI request of 19 January this year.

In your last e-mail dated 17 March you gave the impression that most of the material was now assembled and should reach me before the easter break.

As of today (15 April) nothing has arrived. I am of course aware of your workload and also the possibility that some material may have taken longer to clear than originally envisaged. However, I thought I would check in case the material had gone astray in the postal system.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Dr David Clarke

Telecom Section 40 / Dr Clarke 18 April 2005.

I apologised for delay and explained the difficulties. Dr C was very understanding and said he was only concerned that the info had not been lost in the post.

Dr Clarke has re-written the National Archives guide to UFO files and will send me the link when it is complete. He is also writing an article on the RAF Cosford/Shenbury incident which will be out soon.

Section 40

18/4/2005

19/04/2005





Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 15 April 2005 13:35  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FW: Dr Clarke request

Section 40

I have now heard from the Cabinet Officer - no Cab Office objections to the release of the letter 13 February 1992 from Sir Robin Butler, plus PQ and draft reply, together with the background notes and Q+A.

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 04 April 2005 11:05  
**To:** Section 40 @mod.uk)  
**Subject:** Dr Clarke request

Section 40

No problem with the release of my loose minute 4 April 1995 or Annex A, however Annex B will have to be referred to the Cabinet Office for clearance. I'll do the necessary!

Section 40

Thanks **Section 40**

**Section 40**

---

**From:** **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 04 April 2005 11:05  
**To:** **Section 40**  
**Subject:** Dr Clarke request

**Section 40**

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**Section 40**

COVERING SECRET

INDEXED TO A/C S(RH) 14613  
DAD 42 APR 1995



## CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS  
Telephone Section 40 Fax Section 40

From the Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service  
Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO

PS EMB 510  
RS CD 79  
RS X 28 (17)  
AWS (JRS)

CPO  
Hd of GS DIV  
Hd CS Section 40

Section 40 Section 40

Ref. AO92/422

13 February 1992

Dear Terry,

### Records Relating to Security and Intelligence

In my letter of 23 December last I said that the Lord Chancellor would announce the renewal of the 'blanket' approval to retain records relating to security and intelligence by means of an arranged PQ.

--- The PQ has been tabled for answer by the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords on 14 February 1992. I attach for your information a copy of the Question and draft reply, also a copy of briefing which has been circulated to Departmental Record Officers for them to make available to Ministers and Press Offices as appropriate.

An announcement will also be made on 14 February 1992 of the release of the Farm Hall transcripts in which there has been considerable academic interest and which until now have been withheld under the 'blanket'. The simultaneous release will, I hope, be seen as an indication of the Government's intention to release security and intelligence related material as soon as it is deemed no longer sensitive.

--- I am copying this letter and the attachment to those on the attached list.

Yours ever,

Sir Terence Burns  
HM Treasury

Section 40

COVERING SECRET

Sir Derek Andrews KCB CBE  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Sir Michael Quinlan GCB  
Ministry of Defence

Sir John Caines KCB  
Department of Education and Science

Sir Geoffrey Holland KCB  
Department of the Employment

**Section 40**

Secretary, AEA Technology  
Corporate Headquarters  
11 Charles II Street  
London SW1Y 4QP

Sir Terence Heiser GCB  
Department of the Environment

Sir David Gillmore KCMG  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**Section 40**

Overseas Development Administration

Sir Christopher France KCB  
Department of Health

Sir Clive Whitmore GCB CVO  
Home Office

Sir Peter Imbert QPM  
Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis  
New Scotland Yard

Sir John Bourn KCB  
Comptroller and Auditor General

J A Chilcot Esq CB  
Northern Ireland Office

Sir Peter Gregson KCB  
Department of Trade and Industry

**Section 40**

Department of Transport

Sir Richard Lloyd Jones KCB  
Welsh Office

J R S Guinness Esq CB  
Department of Energy

Sir Michael Partridge KCB  
Department of Social Security

The Rt Hon Christopher Chataway  
Chairman,  
Civil Aviation Authority

68

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER ON FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY  
1992

QUESTION: To ask Her Majesty's Government, what action is being taken to review the approval given in 1967 for the retention of security and intelligence records.

---

---

ANSWER: The emphasis of the Government's policy, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Records Act, is on release rather than retention of records. However, it has long been accepted that certain security and intelligence related records cannot be released automatically after 30 years because this would pose a continuing risk to national security. In 1967 my predecessor gave approval to the retention of such records under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958.

I have now reviewed this approval in the light of the Government's acceptance of the Wilson Committee's recommendations (in Modern Public Records: Cmnd 8531) relating to greater Ministerial involvement and more frequent consideration of such material. As a result of the review and following consultation with Ministers concerned I am satisfied that the records concerned are properly retained in their departments and that the "blanket" exemption remains the most efficient way of providing the necessary protection. I have accordingly approved their retention for a further period of 20 years.

The "blanket" approval is permissive, not mandatory. Departments have therefore been asked to keep their records under review and to release them at the first opportunity. All records retained by Departments under the "blanket" approval will be re-reviewed at least every ten years.



ENCLOSURE  
67

BRIEFING FOR MINISTERS AND PRESS OFFICES ON THE RENEWAL OF THE  
"BLANKET" APPROVAL TO RETAIN SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE RECORDS  
AND RELATED MATERIAL UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT  
1958

Background

In November 1967, the then Lord Chancellor, Lord Gardiner, approved the blanket retention of security and intelligence records. This "blanket" approval permitted the retention of records over 30 years old under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act 1958 without the need to seek the Lord Chancellor's specific approval to retain particular records. The original "blanket" approval was established for 25 years and therefore expires in 1992.

In 1982, in the White Paper, Modern Public Records (Cmnd 8531, March 1982) the Government accepted, inter alia, the recommendations of the Wilson Committee that "the powers conferred under section 3(4) should in future be exercised in such a way as to require more specific and more frequent Ministerial approval". The Government decided that new records for retention should be approved in 10-year tranches and that each blanket approval should be reconsidered after 20 years.

The Public Records Act prescribes that persons responsible for public records of any description which are not in the Public Record Office shall, under the guidance of the Keeper of Public Records, make arrangements for the selection of those records which ought to be permanently preserved and for their safe keeping. Generally records have to be transferred to the PRO before they are 30 years old. However, if the Lord Chancellor gives his approval, records more than 30 years old can be retained in departments under section 3(4) of the Public Records Act, either because the records contain highly sensitive information relating to national security or because they are required for administrative purposes. One form that retention can take is that of a "blanket" nature, covering clearly defined subject matter but without referring specifically to classes of records or individual pieces. The blanket approval has the advantage of being a relatively efficient and economic way to deal with a sizeable category of records when it is clear that the bulk of them need to be retained; without such a framework, the need to gain approval for records individually would increase enormously the demands on resources for all concerned in Departments, Agencies and the PRO. Before giving his approval to the retention of records under section 3(4) of the Act, the Lord Chancellor must be informed of the facts

constituting the reason for such retention and receive the opinion of the person or persons responsible for the records that they need to be retained.

#### Review

Following a review of the operation of the "blanket" by officials, the Lord Chancellor has sought and has received the opinion of Ministers responsible for departments holding records needing to be protected by the "blanket" approval that the records held continue to need such protection. He has also been informed of and approved the facts which make this protection necessary. In the light of this, the Lord Chancellor has agreed that a new "blanket" approval shall be granted and that, in accordance with the Wilson Committee recommendation, it shall be for 20 rather than 25 years.

#### Announcement

The Lord Chancellor will announce, by means of an Arranged PQ, that he has given a further approval for a blanket retention of these records for 20 years. The PQ has been tabled for Answer on 14 February.

#### Follow-up

The renewal of the "blanket" does not mean that all the documents covered by it will automatically be held back from publication. As the Lord Chancellor's announcement will say, departments will continue to keep records under review. The emphasis of the Government's policy, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Records Act, is on the release rather than the retention of records. Those Departments holding records which are retained under the "blanket" will re-review them at least every ten years. If they are no longer sensitive they will be released at that time. The Government will encourage a flexible approach to the reviewing of such records. Within the constraints of available resources, material will be released within the ten year period should its sensitivity disappear earlier. Responsible Ministers will be consulted before the current "blanket" approval expires at the end of 2011.

66

QUESTION AND ANSWER BRIEF FOR MINISTERS AND/OR PRESS OFFICES  
(INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER AND NO 10 PRESS OFFICE)

Q1 Why do we need a "blanket"?

A1 When a category of records such as those relating to security and intelligence needs to be withheld, the procedures for the handling of such records can be efficiently and economically administered if the category is dealt with as an entity rather than on an item by item basis.

Q2 What other records are dealt with in this way?

A2 Other examples include records relating to atomic energy, civil defence and personal records of civil servants.

Q3 How does the blanket arrangement differ from extended closure for, say, 50 years or longer?

A3 Extended closure under section 5(1) of the Public Records Act enables records passed to the PRO by departments to remain closed to the public for longer than 30 years. That procedure is used to deal with records of a sensitive nature where it is possible to identify with some degree of confidence a point in the future when that sensitivity will have disappeared. Records retained by departments under the blanket are of such an exceptionally sensitive nature that no judgment about when they will be releasable can be made now.

Q4 What sort of material is held under the "blanket" approval which has now been announced?

A4 Records relating to security and intelligence matters.

Q5 What are the criteria for including material in the "blanket" authority?

A5 [see the list of "facts" attached]

Q6 Which departments hold records under the "blanket" and how much of this material is there?

A6 Material of this sort is held in varying amounts by most major Government departments and it is not possible to quantify it with any degree of precision.

Q7 What procedures are to be adopted to keep the material under review?

A7 As the Lord Chancellor's Statement says, all material held by departments under the "blanket" will be reviewed at least every ten years. If resources permit, more frequent reviews will be carried to ensure that material is released as soon as its sensitivity disappears.

Q8 How is this 10-year review carried out?

A8 The Departmental Record Officer in each department is responsible for looking at the records and, after such consultation as is necessary with other government departments and the security and intelligence agencies, for recommending continued retention or release.

Q9 Do Ministers take part in this review?

A9 No. By convention, Ministers do not see papers of previous Administrations. However, the Lord Chancellor has emphasised that as part of the mechanism for creating the blanket authority itself, Ministers must be satisfied that the records for which they are responsible fall into categories which merit the protection of retention and non-release.

Q10 Who monitors that officials' recommendations for release or otherwise are correct? Does the Lord Chancellor see the records?

A10 This is the responsibility of Public Record Office staff, on whom the Lord Chancellor relies for assurances that records should properly be withheld.

Q11 What is the position regarding Agency records?

A11 The Prime Minister has agreed that records of the Security and Intelligence Agencies should continue to be withheld under the blanket. A further opportunity to consider those records will occur when the current blanket approval expires. All records created by the Agencies and passed to Government departments will be considered for release against the agreed criteria, which are kept under review.

Q12 How will changes in the international intelligence climate affect the blanket approval?

A12 Records will continue to be reviewed under the blanket arrangements, taking due account, as appropriate, of any such changes.

Q13 Does the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council on Public Records see any of the records covered by the "blanket"?

A13 The Advisory Council is not involved in endorsing any of the various applications made by departments to retain records under section 3(4), because of the particularly sensitive nature of the records involved.

Q14 Who makes the final decision to retain or release records?

A14 Under the terms of the Public Records Act, the Lord Chancellor, as Minister responsible for public records, must give his approval to Departments' applications for the retention of records.

Q15 Why do we need to keep so much information withheld these days?

A15 The Government's policy continues to be to make as much information available as possible while preserving the confidentiality essential to the effective working of government and, of course, the security of the State. The framework that has now been put in place for the future (including more frequent and specific Ministerial endorsement of the need to retain records, records being dealt with in smaller tranches, and better and more regular review procedures) will make departments look hard at this sort of material and provide more encouragement and more "trigger points" for reconsideration and release.





EMBARGOED UNTIL 3.30 FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

Q: What about the Farm Hall Tapes?

A: At the end of the Second World War, a group of German nuclear scientists were interned in a farm house - Farm Hall, near Cambridge. During their internment the opportunity was taken to record their conversation. Whilst the tapes no longer exist, the transcripts have survived. Over the years there has been much academic interest in these transcripts which have hitherto been closed to the public; but following one of the regular re-reviews of such material, arrangements have now been made for their release. They have been assigned to class WO 208 piece no. 5019 and are now available for examination at the Public Record Office at Kew.

[Text of a press statement to be made by the PRO on Friday 14 February. Further enquiries to the PRO Press Office.]

64

REASONS FOR WITHHOLDING RECORDS RELATING TO SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE

1. Private and personal information is collected by the security and intelligence Agencies by, through and about individuals on a confidential basis. Its release would infringe both that confidentiality and the privacy of individuals concerned and their descendants.
2. The release of documents would be against the interests of the Agencies' employees and contacts. It would destroy the basis of confidentiality upon which the Agencies rely to function and thus prejudice their current operational ability.
3. Contacts with Agencies of other countries are undertaken on a confidential basis; to release papers would destroy that and might also affect relations with those countries.
4. Methods of intelligence collection and operational procedures do not change in a major way, even over a number of years. The release of past papers may give away or draw attention to techniques still in use.



LOOSE MINUTE

CBSSBC 1/9/2

7 April 2005

DAS-FOI

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION - SECURITY CLASSIFICATIONS**

Ref: D/DAS/10/2/8/13 D dated 4 April 2005

1. Investigations by this office reveal that much of the information concerned is already in the public domain.
2. As this is the case, the advice from this office is that the correspondence may be released as it is without any omissions.

Section 40

CBSSBC-SYAC6

Section 40



From: Section 40

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information

Section 40

Main Building, Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone: (Direct dial) Section 40  
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000  
(Fax) Section 40

DII address: DAS-FOI

E-Mail: Section 40@mod.uk

**FAX MESSAGE**

**TO:** Attention Section 40 CBSSC BCAdmin

**SUBJECT:** Security Classifications

**DATE:** 4 April 2005

**NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER:** 5

Dear Section 40

Please see attached the documents as discussed earlier. I have written a covering LM for Section 40 to explain the situation and I would be grateful if you could pass these to him tomorrow.

Any questions please give me a call.

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/10/2/8/13 D

4 April 2005

CBSSBC-SYAD

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING SECURITY CLASSIFICATIONS**

1. This department is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence with the public about Unidentified Flying Objects. In 1995 a member of the public wrote to us enquiring about several alleged 'security categorizations', namely, MAJESTIC, MAJIC, P14, P1-40 and COSMIC TOP SECRET which were said to be connected to UFO sighting reports and/or investigations. At the time HQ Sy 1 provided this department (then Sec(AS)2a) with some advice on these classifications and how we could respond to the member of the public. Please see attached copies of the relevant documents.
2. This correspondence is now part of a Freedom of Information request and I would be grateful for your advice on whether any (or all) of this information can be released. The requester has asked for copies of these documents so if possible I intend to release them with any sensitive areas removed.
3. I would appreciate your advice as soon as possible and in the meantime I will tell the correspondent that this information will be temporarily withheld.

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information

Section 40

MOD Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB



UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

12/1  
141

Fri Jun 16, 1995 17:03 mailbox standard Page 1

DATE	FROM	SUBJECT	CODES
16/06/95	HQSyl	Letter from Section 40	[ ]

Sent : 16/06/95 15:47

Delivered: 16/06/95 16:28

To : SEC(AS)2A (2)

Cc :

Ref : 483

From : HQSyl

Subject : Letter from Section 40

Text : PSA

Section 40

Priority: Normal

View Acknowledge [ ]

Attachments [1]

Reply Request [ ]

Codes [.....]

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RESTRICTED

LOOSE MINUTE  
D/HQ Sy 1/107/8/3

16 June 1995

Sec(AS)2a - Section 40

**LETTER FROM Section 40 : SECURITY CLASSIFICATION QUERY**

Ref: D/Sec(AS)/12/1 dated 7 June 1995

1. In his letter Section 40 make references to the following 'security categorizations':

MAJESTIC, MAJIC, P14, P1-40 AND COSMIC TOP SECRET

COSMIC TOP SECRET is recognised as a marking currently in use in the NATO forum. My enquiries have identified knowledge of MAJESTIC and MAJIC, but nothing in respect of P14 or P1-40.

2. It would appear that the MAJESTIC and MAJIC markings (and a number of others all beginning with 'M') are 'codewords' used by the 'BLUE BOOK' group who were established (allegedly) in the late 1940's to investigate the, again alleged, UFO crashes/incidents in the USA (eg Roswell, Woodbridge). It is claimed by 'UFOlogists' that such terms have been gleaned from information available under the US Freedom of Information Act.

3. In summary I can confirm, to the best of my knowledge (and at the risk of substantiating conspiracy theory) that, with the exception of COSMIC TOP SECRET, the UK has never used the terms Section 40 quotes. COSMIC TOP SECRET is in use and although unable to confirm categorically that it has never been used in the UFO context, it is a NATO marking and thus not in our gift to confirm its existence or otherwise to members of the public.

4. Section 40 penultimate sentence asks two questions that cumulatively are somewhat akin to 'Have you stopped beating your wife?', and so yes or no answers are out. Although this LM is marked RESTRICTED, the following words are UNCLASSIFIED and can be used in any response to Section 40

"The UK uses four main markings to classify its material; namely Restricted, Confidential, Secret and Top Secret and the meanings attached thereto are already in the public forum. These markings cover a wide range of material and so it is necessary to use additional markings to control handling and distribution (ie. no person cleared to Secret level has the right to see all Secret material). Thus additional markings are available to label material of particular sensitivity, but I am sure that you can appreciate that it is not our policy to disclose the nature of the material that they may cover."

(signed)

Section 40

HQ Sy 1



~~RESTRICTED~~  
UNCLASSIFIED

Section 40

~~RESTRICTED~~  
UNCLASSIFIED



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/1

7 Jun 95

MOD Sy 1a



LETTER FROM Section 40 SECURITY CLASSIFICATION QUERY

1. As you may be aware, Sec(AS)2a acts as the MOD focal point for reports of unidentified flying objects. As such we receive a number of letters from members of the public regarding MOD policy in this connection, which often include questions relating to MOD security classifications. The attached is one such example.

2. I should be grateful if you would take a look at the question posed by Section 40 (highlighted) and offer a form of words for me to draw upon in my response. I am unsure whether these are even proper MOD security classifications, and if any of them are I feel sure we would not wish to go into any details. However, an appropriate public line which I could deploy would be greatly appreciated.

Section 40



Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2A (2)

Enc.

**COVERING CONFIDENTIAL**



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/3/11

5 April 2005

**DIST-AMLM AD**

Copied to: DI BCR CG3

**DOWNGRADING OF DOCUMENTS FOR RELEASE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

Reference A: D/DAS/64/3/11 dated 10 February 2005.

1. Thank you for examining the documents enclosed with reference A for possible release to Dr Clarke in response to his Freedom of Information request. I understand from your e-mail message of 1 April that you are now content for these documents to be released.
2. As you will be aware some of the documents were given various classifications at the time they were created, ranging from Confidential to Secret. In order to release them into the public domain they must be downgraded to Unclassified. JSP440 contains instructions (copy attached for ease of reference) that this should be done by the originator using MOD Form 171. I have therefore attached to this minute MOD Forms 171 for those documents which were generated by DIST and I would appreciate your endorsement that you are content to downgrade these for release.
3. In addition to these documents Dr Clarke also requested an entire copy of one of our UFO Policy files which also contains some classified documents generated by DIST. I believe you have already seen these documents, but for ease of reference I enclose copies of those that require downgrading (together with the MOD Forms 171) for your action. In addition to those attached I would appreciate confirmation that you are happy to downgrade and release D/DI55/108/15 "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Study" dated 18 October 1993 which is classified Secret UK Eyes A and the attachment is Secret UK Eyes B, copies of which were sent to you on 17 February 2005. I enclose a MOD Form 171 for this purpose.
4. Finally, the document you supplied regarding DIST decision in 2000 to no longer receive UFO reports (D/DIST/11/10 dated 4 December 2000) is also classified Secret UK Eyes Only. Please would you inform me whether you are content for this to be released to Dr Clarke and if so, complete the relevant form attached.

**COVERING CONFIDENTIAL**



## COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

5. I apologise for giving you additional tasks, but would appreciate a response as soon as possible. In the meantime, I will tell Dr Clarke that these documents are temporarily withheld awaiting confirmation of downgrading. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Section 40



DAS-FOI

Section 40

Main Building

Section 40



COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED  
RESTRICTED

D/DI55/108/15

28 April 1993

Sec(AS)2a

PUBLIC ACCESS TO UFO FILES

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)12/1 dated 29 Mar 93.

1. At reference you asked for my views on witness privacy and internal distribution lists for files about to be released under the 30 year rule.

2. Witness Protection. I see no reason why this information should be protected for longer than the normal 30 years.

3. Internal Distribution. This is a finely balance decision to make. Public acknowledgement of investigation of UFOs by an intelligence branch would lead many people to erroneous conclusions. Although DI 55 do not operate covertly we do not court publicity, and publicity could affect our main task. Some books have mentioned an association of DI 55 with UFO investigation but they have no real evidence of this and in any event I see no reason to confirm any link. On balance I believe that mention of AI(Tech) should be deleted.

Section 40

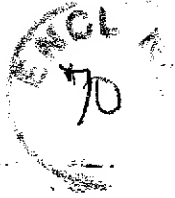
Wing Commander  
DI55c

Section 40

UNCLASSIFIED  
RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

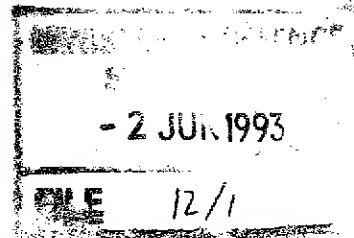
RESTRICTED



D/DI55/108/15

1 June 1993

Sec(AS)2a



UFOs

1. You may be interested to hear that at long last I have had some funds allocated for serious UFO research. The study will include a review of our data, the construction of a data base, a detailed review of specified incidents and recommendations for the future. Needless to say we do not want this broadcast and it is for your information only.

2. I have heard that there is a conference at Sheffield Poly in August, I would be grateful if you have any further information.

Section 40



Wing Commander  
DI55c

Section 40



UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

for info

File 12/1

E32

Head ITAU

52  
DI(ST)

Reference DI52/TMCK/1

Wednesday 19th June 1991

Report by Section 40 (DI52)

Arrived in my hotel room at approx 2305 and tuned in to Radio 1 "The Nicki Campbell Programme". I had heard last night (18th) that he was going to broadcast a "very controversial" interview regarding UFO's. It was due to start at 2230 so I've probably missed a lot!

The interview was with a Tim Good (I believe). He started expounding about his knowledge of UFO's and that 6 alien craft had arrived on our planet! He claimed that senior people in Whitehall and the states know of the reality of these events.

\* He said this was the "most sensitive area in the UK Intelligence field of all time". Sources had made him aware of MOD intelligence in Northumberland Avenue, and that there was a section DI55 working on this topic in a locked and guarded room No 801 (I think he said). He claimed that the facts relating to UFO's was classified 37 levels higher than Top Secret! Numerous references were made to an ex NASaphysicist Bob Lassare. Apparently, alien craft had been studied, and their propulsion systems were so sophisticated technically that engineers had taken years to derive an understanding. Instantaneous motion. An ex astronaut (I think) Gordon Cooper had chased UFO's. There was video film of them in the Nevada desert. One planet he quoted where aliens had come from (37 light years away) was Zeta Persei. NORAD track such craft daily he claimed.

He claimed further that the states have a 'Black Budget' for such Projects - making it unaccountable to the senate.

STATIONARY

When asked if he believed George Bush had ever seen one of these "quarantined"? craft, he said he was sure that he had, as they were "available". Parts of his dialogue was linked to the Bible and spiritualism as a way of justifying the reality of such phenomena presumably. He mentioned ASC - alternative space craft. With that the interview ended.

Nicki Campbell asked listeners to phone in if they were interested to find out more. If response was good, he would try and set up a tele link with the states (one of his sources) tomorrow evening (20th).

I'm new to DI (4 weeks). I sat down and spent 30 mins considering what I should do. I didn't have any phone numbers to ring so decided to go to the office (by taxi) (I may put in a bill Ha). Couldn't find any next of kin lists for Section 40 or anyone else. Used Section 40 phone to make him aware of this (via his HOME Button!) This was at about 0005 I guess. He asked me to contact the Duty Officer in MB which I did. Rather than talk on the phone, I went across and told Sqn Ldr Section 40 the above. He didn't seem unduly concerned, but said he would pass the details over to the "day shift".

I can't vouch 100% for the accuracy of my recollections above, but took lots of notes throughout the programme so am reasonably confident about names and statements made. It's now 0150 - I'm tired. I should have listened to Radio 4 perhaps! Maybe not. Hope I did the right thing.

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

25 JUN 91

12/1

UNCLASSIFIED

Recommendations

I think it would be prudent to obtain a copy of the transcript of the interview, in order to verify/correct the foregoing for accuracy. I guess then its down to considering whether there is a justification for the security services to take the matter further in view of what has been broadcast.

Section 40



206/91

UNCLASSIFIED





Section 40

Thank you. I have received the other document as well. I will now prepare them for release to Dr Clarke. I will give you a call if there are any problems.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 01 April 2005 13:51  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE:

Section 40

The documents look fine, I can see no grounds not to release them.

Did you get the other stuff I sent over on an immediate a while ago.

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 30 March 2005 08:58  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:**

Section 40

Are you yet in a position to reply concerning the papers on UFOs requested by Dr Clarke?

Section 40  
DAS-FOI  
Section 40



Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 21 March 2005 11:07  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: Dr Clarke's request for Information

Section 40

I see no problems releasing this information now.

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 18 March 2005 10:13  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Dr Clarke's request for Information

Section 40

I am going through the raft of papers from one of our UFO policy files for possible release to Dr Clarke in response to his request for information.

There are a few documents which refer to discussions between Sec(AS), DI55c and Hd CS(RM)1 in May 1995 about Public Access to UFO files and the release of internal distribution lists. Apparently until then internal distribution lists were removed from information released to the public because it was believed that the UFO lobby might become a little too interested in the work of DIS if they saw that reports were sent to them. Sec(AS) believed in 1995 that our reasons for continuing with this policy were weak because it was already public knowledge that DIS were involved ("following an unfortunate slip some years ago") that we should release the internal distribution them from then on, but have prepared lines to take for the public and press about DIS involvement.

Do either of you see any problem with me releasing this information to Dr Clarke?

Section 40  
DAS-FOI

04/04/2005



Section 40

From: David Clarke Section 40  
 Sent: 18 March 2005 13:22  
 To: Section 40  
 Subject: Re: FOIA request

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your email of 17 March and for the detailed information you supplied. I do of course understand the reasons for the delay in completion of my FOIA request from January, particularly the requirement to clear release of information from the other departments involved in the request.

From the figures you supplied re FOIA requests it must have been a very busy time for you, but hopefully, as the figures suggest, the numbers of applications particularly regarding UFOs, should begin to fall off soon. From my experience in this field most interested parties - particularly journalists - don't really know what questions to ask so tend to make rather sweeping requests.

I hope that you are able to clear up the outstanding bits and pieces from my application by the end of this week as you predict and I look forward to receiving the package from you sometime next week.

Some small but important points arise from your email:

a) in my letter of 19 Jan I asked if you could confirm which files from a list of 36 due to be transferred to TNA had reached Kew; will you be able to answer this in your forthcoming letter/enclosures?

? b) Regards the 1977 letter from Nicholas Edwards MP which you source to D/DS8/25/3 Part A - UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence (formerly D/S4(Air)8/3 Pt A). Is this the same file listed as D/DS8/2/3 Pt A, UFOs: Parliamentary Correspondence 1978 on the Annex A which you enclosed with your letter of 20 December? Or is it the file, D/DS8/75/3 Part A (Parliamentary Correspondence - House of Lords Debate) which appears on the earlier list sent in 2003; back in 2002 (your ref D/DAS/64/3/11) you sent me some papers from this file but said two other files containing parliamentary correspondence from this period had been destroyed in 1990. This seems to indicate we have at least 3 different files all with very similar titles & content -or are they all in fact the same file?

c) Regards clearance of the two enclosure from file D/D Air Def/111/6/4 Part F - thanks for clearing this misunderstanding up. During my conversation with Section 40 I got the impression that he was referring to the section from the Flying Saucer Saucer Working Party document of 1951 that remains with-held pending agreement from the American authorities.

✓ One final point - during correspondence with Section 40 earlier this week relating to the DIS documents affected by asbestos contamination he makes reference to four UFO policy files, D/DI55/108/15, pts 4-7 which he says "are believed to be with DI 55", i.e. are not at Feltham and are therefore not subject to contamination, as we have been led to believe. ✓

Could you check with DI 55 whether they do in fact hold these files, and if so can you confirm whether or not they are subject to asbestos contamination?

I do appreciate your assistance as ever,

Yours sincerely

Dr D.Clarke  
 National Centre for English Cultural Tradition  
 School of English  
 University of Sheffield

13/04/2005

D/DS8/75/2/2 E Transferred.  
 D/DS8/75/2/2 F 15/3/2005.  
 D/DS8/75/2/3 D  
 D/DS8/75/2/3 G

Section 40  
 Section 40  
 completed  
 9/3/2005

Dear Dr Clarke



I apologise for not getting back to you sooner regarding your FOI request. I will give you an update on the items requested in your letter and the two further questions asked in your e-mail message of 2 March 2005.

In your letter you requested an entire copy of file D/Sec(AS)12/1 Part A – UFO Policy 1985. The file includes 150 enclosures (some 360 individual pages) and spans a period of 1985 to 1995. As you are probably aware, during this period our branch consulted both air defence experts and the Defence Intelligence Staff about UFO matters and some of the documents in this file cover discussions with these areas. I have therefore sent the relevant enclosures to the appropriate areas for their views on release. One of the individuals dealing with this has been away from the office and I am still awaiting a conclusive response. He has now returned and has indicated that he believes that most of (if not all) the information sent to him could be released. He has promised a substantive answer by the end of this week so I should be able to send you this information before Easter.

With regard to the documents you requested at paragraph 2 of your letter, all of these have been located and as above, they are currently with DIS for consultation on release. You may wish to note that D/Sec(AS)64/1 dated 14 March 1997 is actually dated 14 March 1994, however, because of its position in our files and the fact that it refers to previous correspondence dated 29 January 1997, I believe this was an error when the letter was written and it is in fact the document you are seeking. You also requested any additional correspondence associated with these papers. I have located three additional papers that you have not already been given and these are also with DIS. In relation to your request at paragraph 3 of your letter, DIS have been asked to supply copies of documents relating to their decision in 2000 to no longer receive UFO reports and I expect their advice about this information to be included with their response mentioned above.

You also asked about the original location of the letter dated 24 May 1977 from Mr Nicholas Edwards MP to Dr John Gilbert and the draft response and reply from James Wellbeloved MP dated 16 June 1977, as supplied with my previous correspondence. These documents were copied from D/DS8/25/3 Part A – UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence. The file also has a former reference of D/S4(Air)8/3 Part A which has been amended, I suspect when S4(Air) became DS8. This file is currently still with the MOD but has provisionally been assigned The National Archive reference of DEFE 24/1630.

Turning to your e-mail message dated 2 March about FOIA requests about UFOs, I can inform you that in the first month of FOI the MOD as a whole received 735 requests and some 5% of these were about UFOs. Some of these requests, although counted as a single request, where requests for more than one piece of information. Other areas generating large numbers of requests included the war in Iraq, Service discipline issues, Land issues and Equipment. The flow of incoming FOIA requests about UFOs has slowed down in more recent weeks and up to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2005 the MOD had received a total number of 1590 requests and this Department has handled 60 on UFOs.

You also asked for information about the Reading Room. The Directorate of Information Exploitation who have responsibility for the Reading Room have advised that they do not intend to publish responses to all FOI request, but just those where the subject matter expert considers there may be a wider interest. We have placed a copy of a few of our responses to requests about UFOs in the Reading already and we will be considering what further responses may be appropriate for inclusion.

Finally, as I believe **Section 40** may have mentioned in his telephone conversation with you, we have finally been able to secure release of the two enclosures from file D/D Air Deff/111/6/4 Part F which are outstanding from the request you made last year. I will also send these to you.

I hope this information is useful. I expect to be in a position to send all of this information to you next week. I appreciate your patience and hope you will understand that we do

sometimes have to consult others about information they have shared with us and although this can be a lengthy process in most cases it does secure the release of information.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [REDACTED]

Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

Section 40 [REDACTED]

Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2HB

e-mail:das-ufo-office@mod.uk

17<sup>th</sup> March 2005





Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 11 March 2005 16:20  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FOIA request etc

Section 40

I'm sure I sent something out in one of the learning point emails about sending us responses of wider public interest. The Reading Room is for any response that is of wider interest. Focal points should send them to me or Section 40 and we will publish them.

Will that do?

Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 11 March 2005 16:16  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FOIA request etc

Section 40

I have not seen Lord Falconer's statement but if Dr Clarke has interpreted it correctly it looks like he was saying that we intend to publish answers to RFIs from the media and if this is not what is appearing in the Reading Room I can see why Dr C is puzzled. Was it originally planned only to put answers to the media in the Reading Room and if so, did this change to include any request which could be of wider public interest? I do not recall seeing any guidance for Focal Points about this. Section 40 phoned me in January and said you were setting up a Reading Room and did I have anything for her. I sent the few cases that we had answered then, but have not been asked for anything since.

Please could you clarify this so I can respond to Dr Clarke. Also DAS have answered 41 requests now so if you let me know what sort of request answers you would like (ie media, wider interest etc) I will see what else I can send you for the Reading Room.

Section 40  
DAS-FOI

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 11 March 2005 09:51  
**To:** Section 40  
**Cc:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: FOIA request etc

Section 40

The short answer is that there is no formal set of criteria. We will publish whatever responses are forwarded to us by focal points. Some focal points will choose not to publish certain responses because they are trivial or not of wider public interest.

Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 11 March 2005 09:26

17/03/2005

Section 40  
cc: Section 40  
Subject: FW: FOIA request etc

Section 40

The second part of the request for information forwarded by Section 40 is for us to answer. Section 40 relating the response. I'm not sure who will be responsible for this.

Section 40 could you let us know when you need a response?

---

From: Section 40  
Sent: 10 March 2005 14:51  
To: Section 40  
Subject: FOIA request etc

Section 40

One of our regular correspondents / requesters has asked the following follow up to his latest request. I can answer the first part but can you give me something to say to Dr Clarke regarding his enquiry about information in the Reading Room. Please let me know if you would prefer to communicate with him about this yourself. His e-mail address is Section 40

Thanks

Section 40  
DAS-FOI  
Section 40

Dear Section 40

Hope you're both well.  
Following my conversation with Section 40 a few weeks ago, a couple of points arise:

Firstly, I understand that since 1 January your department has received a considerable number of requests for information under the FOIA, both from members of the public and the Press. I gather that around half (?) of these requests relate to UFOs. Without adding to your admin burden, could you give me a rough estimate as to the percentage breakdown of subject requests so far received? This info is quite important for my research (in terms of university funding) as it illustrates the level of public interest.

Secondly, I have perused your 'FOIA reading room' & noted Lord Falconer's statement (December 2004) concerning the intention to simultaneously publish material requested by members of the Press under FOIA online. Could you explain the precise policy regarding which material requested under FOIA is published in your reading room? Is it only requests that are received from a known media source, or does it apply to requests from members of the public (such as myself?). Is it the intention to publish material relating to all requests, or if not which ones?

On that note, is it possible to estimate a time for completion of my pending FOIA request of 19 January?

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

17/03/2005



Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 09 March 2005 09:03  
**To:** Section 40  
**Cc:** DI BCR-INFO 1a (DIBCR-INFO1a2@mod.uk)  
**Subject:** FW: Feltham & UFO files

Section 40

The reply from DIS.

Four of the six files Dr Clarke suggests should be included in the Feltham pilot are apparently with the branch. If Pt 9 is at Feltham the list detailing crates and their contents is in error!

As for Dr Clarke I will thank him for his suggestion, but decline to include any of these files, I will also tell him that as I understand it only two of the files identified by him are apparently affected by the asbestos contamination of OWOB basement, crate details uncertain.

I guess he will in turn write to you about the other four files!

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 08 March 2005 11:51  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Feltham & UFO files

Section 40

I have been in contact with Section 40 (AD DI55) regarding your question about the location of various DI55 files. Please see his reply below:

Section 40

~~Considerable~~ time was spent to verify that  
DI55/108/15 - Pt 4 held in branch.

DI55/108/15 Pt 5 held in branch

DI55/108/15 Pt 6 held in branch

DI55/108/15 Pt 7 held in branch

We do not hold the following in branch and I understand these were in the archive when the contamination was found.

DI55/108/15/1 - Pt 9 DI55/108/15/1 - Pt 32

Hope this helps

Section 40

18/04/2005

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 04 March 2005 08:28  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FW: FOI request - Feltham & UFO files

Section 40

Please see further

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 03 March 2005 15:06  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** FW: FOI request - Feltham & UFO files

Section 40

Sorry, a typo -

Pts 4 & 5 are at Feltham, but 6 & 7 with the branch?

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 03 March 2005 13:34  
**To:** Section 40 @mod.uk)  
**Cc:** Section 40 @mod.uk)  
**Subject:** FOI request - Feltham & UFO files

Section 40

I hope that you can help.

A member of the public has apparently been advised that the DIS UFO files are contaminated with asbestos and that the files are not accessible has written to me to suggest that a few of them be included in the pilot.

Although this is unacceptable to me - the selection of crates has already been made and the physical handling of files starts Monday, I think that the information he has been given is at variance with the data on the DIS database!

The files:

DI55/108/15 Parts 4, 5, 6 & 7  
DI55/108/15/1 Parts 9 & 32

DI 55/108/15 Parts 4 & 5 and DI 55/108/15/1 Part 32 are in crates 12-25-B, 12-25-C & 23-12A respectively.

18/04/2005

● at DI 55/108/15 Parts 5 & 6 and DI 55/108/15/1 part 9 are apparently with the branch!

Please confirm that this is your understanding of the position in respect of these six files.

Regards

Section 40

18/04/2005





Section 40

Thanks for your latest helpful list of files. I do not need D/DS8/25/3 Pt A at present, it was just that I have sent Dr Clarke some papers from this file in response to one of his previous requests and he was asking what file they were from because he could not find them in TNA.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

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From: Section 40

Sent: 15 February 2005 13:03

To: Section 40

Subject: RE: UFO Files

Section 40

D/DS8/25/3 Pt A is with us and has been provisionally assigned the following TNA ref DEFE 24/1630.

Interestingly the file does carry another former ref: D/S4(Air) 8/3 Pt A but this has been cancelled, presumably whilst in the branch, and re-endorsed with the DS8 ref!

I attached an updated lists of files open at Kew or at various stages in preparation in MOD.

Section 40

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From: Section 40

Sent: 11 February 2005 11:15

To: Section 40

Subject: UFO Files

Importance: High

Section 40

Do you know the status of DS8/25/3 Part A (or DS8/75/3 Part A, the cover of the file was unclear last time I saw it)? According to my records we still hold it at Hayes, but it dates from 1977-78 so may be with your reviewers now.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40



Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 03 February 2005 14:49  
**To:** Section 40 @mod.uk)  
**Subject:** FOI: Dr D Clarke

Section 40

We spoke about Dr Clarke's letter of 19 January 2005.

He provided a list of 34 files, extracted from a list provided by MOD, to be allocated TNA references or with TNA references that he believed had been transferred to Kew or are due for transfer (in which case he wanted to know the approximate transfer date.

The following may be a little stark, but you might like to consider it in your reply to Dr Clarke!

"Two of the files listed on the "to be allocated TNA refs" attachment are duplicated entries:

D/DS8/2/3C is already listed as DEFE 24/1205  
D/DS8/75/2/1B is listed as DEFE 24/1206

Both are at TNA and are available to researchers.

Of the remaining 32, none have yet been transferred to The National Archives. The preparation process is still at an early stage with draft lists (for 27 pieces) only recently submitted to TNA. TNA will determine when transfer takes place and at the present time there are no scheduled pick-ups, from MOD, by TNA."

Section 40

COVERING SECRET



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAS/64/3/11

10 February 2005

DI BCR CG3 - Section 40

Copy to: DI ST AM LM AD - Section 40

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOR INFORMATION -**  
**DR DAVID CLARKE**

1. Further to my earlier e-mail message and our telephone conversation, please see attached the papers I have located on my UFO policy files which are relevant to Dr Clarke's request for information.
2. I have included those papers which Dr Clarke specified in his letter. He also requested associated papers and I also enclose a copy of those which I have found. I have not included copies of papers Dr Clarke has already had in response to previous requests under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, but for ease of reference and to save you from supplying papers we already have, the reference of these are listed below.  
  
LM reference D/DAO/1/13 dated 25 March 1997  
LM reference D/DIST/11/10 dated 25 April 1997  
LM reference D/Sec(AS)64/1 dated 13 May 1997  
LM reference DI(ST)/11/10 dated 28 May 1997
3. I would be grateful if you could look at these papers and give me your opinion as to whether you believe they can be downgraded and released to Dr Clarke by COP 15 February 2005. If you locate any papers relevant to Dr Clarke's request on your files, which we do not have, please supply a copy.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Zone H

Section 40

Main Building

Section 40

COVERING SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED  
RESTRICTED - POLICY

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)64/1

14th March 1994

AO/AD1

DI ST

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS

DAO

Head of Sec(AS)

DI Sec

AD/DI55

DPR(RAF)

'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS' - POLICY

Reference: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 29th January 1997

1. You will recall that I wrote at Reference seeking advice and comment on the way forward for handling 'UFO' reports and I wonder if you have yet had time to consider what might be required so far as your respective interests are concerned. I discussed a number of points at a meeting some three weeks ago with Wing Commander Section 40 but have not heard further.

2. I appreciate that other issues might well have taken priority in recent times but I would like to make some progress on this in the near future.

*Requested  
Papers.*

Section 40

Section 40  
Sec(AS)2

Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2

Section 40

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RESTRICTED - POLICY

Sent to  
DI for  
advice



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RESTRICTED POLICY

4+1

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS) [REDACTED]

29th January 1997

AO/AD1

DI ST

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS

Head of Sec(AS)

AD/DI55

DAO

DI Sec

DPR(RAF)

'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS' - POLICY

1. I have been giving some thought to the way the Department currently handles 'UFO' reports and letters from members of the public, many of the latter actively seeking information about the existence of extraterrestrial life forms, or seeking a detailed investigation/explanation for what has been reported (allegations of abduction by aliens, out of body experiences, animal mutilations, crop circles etc).
2. The increasing media attention given to this subject in recent months has almost doubled the work of the desk officers involved to the detriment of other tasks more directly relevant to the work of the Branch. In the circumstances it seems timely to reappraise the situation with a view to clarifying the Department's role and requirements. Existing Government policy and my understanding of the current arrangements is set out at Annex.
3. I believe there should be a demonstrated need to continue current policy if we are to do so and would be grateful to know:
  - a. the extent of DAO and DI ST current interest in 'UFO' reports;
  - b. whether Sec(AS) should continue to forward any sighting reports to DAO or DI ST from members of the public for further examination/clarification and, if so, the criteria on which such decisions might be based.
  - c. whether the focus of interest ~~is~~ should be internally generated (ie air defence) or rely on reports only from credible witnesses with full involvement from DAO and DI ST in the investigation process.
4. Depending on the nature of any changes proposed it may be necessary to seek Ministerial agreement to proceed. I look forward to receiving your formal comments.

Section 40

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2

RESTRICTED POLICY  
UNCLASSIFIED

'UFO REPORTS ': MOD INTEREST AND CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

Policy

1. The Government's policy on 'UFOs' is that the air defence implications of unidentified flying objects are a matter for the MOD; air traffic implications are a matter for the Civil Aviation Authority.
2. MOD's interest in 'UFOs' is limited to examining reported sightings to establish if such activity might have a defence significance (ie whether the UK Air Defence Region has been breached).

Sec(AS)2 Responsibilities

3. Sec(AS)2a acts as the focal point for MOD Policy on 'UFO' issues and maintains a simple record for all reported sightings, staffs sighting reports and public correspondence relating to alleged sightings to other MOD Branches as necessary, responds to Parliamentary and Ministerial inquiries, and deals with written and telephone enquiries from members of the public. DPO staff deal with media enquiries based on advice from Sec(AS)2.

Current Arrangements

4. It is generally the case that 'UFO' reports are copied to AO/GE1 for advice on air defence related issues, and to DI55 for the technology aspects of what has been observed. DAO has no interest in extraterrestrial matters and 'UFO' sightings are considered only in relation to a possible military threat to the UK's air defences. DI55 is responsible for studying aerodynamic missiles and is the DIS repository for UFO reports forwarded by Sec(AS): they have no evidence to date to support the extraterrestrial hypothesis.
5. It is considered that events giving rise to a defence interest are only likely to be reported by credible witnesses, ie military pilot reported incidents or detections by defence radar or early warning systems. In these circumstances DAO staffs would lead on the response in light of the circumstances at the time. Other credible witnesses might be professional civil pilots, officials at Air Traffic Control Centres (ATCCs) and the emergency services (police/fire). During the last two years only a handful of reports have been made by credible witnesses and none have provided evidence of defence significance.
6. There are no resources within the Department to provide an aeronautical identification service for every 'UFO' report. More importantly, given MOD's stated interest, there is no requirement to do so.

Sent to  
D1  
For advice

Section 40

option - redaction  
only for DPA x Classification

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Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI ST/11/10 - OUT 952.

3 Feb 97

Sec(AS)2

Copy to:

DI P&R

DISec

AO/AD1

4/1  
Any comments -  
it answers for my  
when/for what  
questions would be  
helpful - any idea of  
its time ~~when~~ these  
comments apply to?

Section 40

9/2

**UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA STUDY**

Ref: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 27 Jan 97

1. Thank you for reference on the discussions on the possibility of a study into unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP). This is a holding reply, not least because **Section 40** who is central to this matter, is on terminal leave from the RAF and not available to advise for some weeks. (U)

2. However I wish to point out now that reference to planned DI55 activity conveys too firm an impression. **Section 40** had been investigating what might be achieved within our current resources prior to seeking any commitment. He had sought your views because in the past your branch had supported an (unsuccessful) application for additional resource to create an electronic database. The interest of your branch has also been evident from many occasions over the last 20 years when DI55 has responded to your short notice demands to undertake extensive manual searches of the current and very large paper-based UAP archive. (S)

3. In addition to your requirements we also consider there are several other parties who have an interest in the data as an intelligence source. However our ability to adequately exploit the data is severely constrained by lack of resources and the limitations of the paper based archive. While I rejected the specific application for additional resources mentioned above I remain concerned that we are not in a position to conduct intelligence assessment, which leads me to question whether there is any point in maintaining the archive. Once we have investigated further I would welcome a discussion over what the customer requirements are and whether we are resourced to meet them.

DAS  
102No. 286  
10 FEB 2005  
Copy 2 of 2  
FILE

Section 40

DI ST

Section 40

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FILE



Sent to  
D<sup>1</sup> for advice



Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

2nd April 1997

AOAD1 \*

Copy to:

\* by CHOTS

PSO/ACAS \*

DAO \*

DI ST

Head of Sec(AS) \*

DI Sec

AD/DI55

DPR(RAF) \*

'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS' - POLICY

Reference A: D/DAO/1/13 dated 25th March 1997

1. Thank you for your reply (Reference A) to my minute seeking advice on the way forward for the handling of 'UFO' reports.
2. In view of your stated interest in 'UFO' sightings (para 2 of Reference A), Sec(AS)2 will in future only refer to you for advice or investigation reports that fall into the following categories:
  - a. documented sightings - reports that are supported by evidence such as photographs, video recordings or radar traces, where these cannot be readily explained and are provided by sources who appear to be reliable;
  - b. corroborated sightings - a series of reports apparently describing the same phenomenon and provided by separate and independent sources, where these cannot be readily explained;
  - c. timely sightings - reports of a phenomenon that is currently being observed and might, therefore, be capable of detection by AD or other assets such as military aircraft or radar observers.

We will not follow-up undocumented, uncorroborated reports of past events unless, in the opinion of the Sec(AS) desk officer or duty officer, there are features of particular interest or dependability.

3. You asked about US reporting and investigating practices. We have inquired about this in the past through the Washington Embassy. The US DOD has a statement on their Internet web site recording their 'Project Blue Book' research and concluding that they no longer have any interest in UFO reports and related matters; those who wish to report 'sightings' are invited to contact local law enforcement agencies.
4. You question whether we need to fund investigation of

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inexplicable incidents. Ministers' policy is clear: we are not funded to investigate all unexplained phenomena and our interest is confined to any occurrence that may have an air defence significance. The Prime Minister sees no case for funding research into extra terrestrial 'UFO' phenomena.

5. Finally, you suggest that we need an electronic database and management system against which sightings might be recorded and handled. This is not something we ourselves see any need for.

Section 40



Sec(AS)2

Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2

Section 40

RESTRICT\1\UFOs

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Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)/64/1

22nd April 1997

DI ST

Copy to:

AOAD1  
PSO/ACAS  
DAO  
Head of Sec(AS)  
DI Sec  
AD/DI55  
DPR(RAF)

'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS' - POLICY

Reference:

- A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 29th January 1997
- B. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 14th March 1997
- C. D/DAO/1/13 dated 25th March 1997
- D. D/Sec(AS)64/1 dated 2nd April 1997

1. It is now some time since I wrote (Reference A) seeking views on the way forward for the increasing amount of correspondence and sighting reports the Department now receives on the subject of 'UFOs' and related issues.

2. In the absence of any advice from DI of a need to see such material, I can only assume that this subject does not warrant significant interest. I therefore propose that for the future only information relating to 'credible' sightings will be further disseminated. The criteria for what constitutes a 'credible' sighting was given in my response to AOAD1 (Reference D - copied to you) following receipt of his advice on the extent of DAO interest.

3. I should be grateful to know that this course of action is acceptable to you.

Section 40

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Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2

Section 40

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Already .  
had this

Copy not  
sent to  
DI

Associated  
papers.

Dr Clarke has  
already had  
these

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

26 Mar 97

**SEC(AS)2**

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS

DAO

DI ST

Head of Sec(AS)

DI Sec

AD/DI55

DPR(RAF)

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO) POLICY

References:

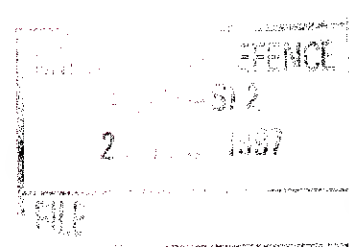
- A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 14 Mar 97.
- B. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 29 Jan 97.

1. Thank you for your letter at Reference A reminding of the need to make progress on future handling of UFO reports against a background of increasing public interest and therefore workload. You ask what might be required insofar as air defence interests are concerned.

2. Following your earlier letter at Reference B, you will recall our discussion of the topic. My views are unchanged. We have no direct air defence interest in UFO reports unless there is intelligence, reliable sighting or evidence that UK national airspace, or the UKADR, may be, or has been, penetrated by aircraft of potentially hostile powers without authorisation. Orbiting satellites are accounted separately and appropriate COMSEC implemented.

3. A majority of UFO reports are tenuous in nature, are reported at second hand or with a time lag, and frequently overland or at night in areas where we have little radar cover. Those described as at great height, if they exist, may lie above radar cover, as only Fylingdales has tracking capabilities in the endo-atmosphere and in space. Some reports describe objects in terms of manoeuvre, speed and shape which lie beyond our engineering knowledge and that which could be reasonably expected from hostile powers.

4. There is considerable difficulty, therefore, in assessing and prioritising these reports sufficiently quickly to provide, where warranted, an active response. Moreover, when interceptions may be needed, we are constrained by reduced readiness following drawdowns at the end of the Cold War and the considerable time lag in responding from northern bases in the event of incidents in the south, especially if access is needed to intensively used civil





airspace. Inevitably, interceptions are infrequently attempted against knowledge that, in the present benign environment, most sightings are unlikely to be associated with threatening activity.

5. I would emphasise that such sightings have been few and far between, with only Russia among potentially hostile powers being capable of penetrating UK airspace at very high altitudes; while no hostile power could reasonably be responsible for low level sightings, because of the range or political risk involved, except in the context of large civil register aircraft diverting from flight plans (where we have had incidents).

6. Staffing UFO matters, however, is a time consuming concern. As you are painfully aware, reported sightings are frequently explored in the public domain, often by organised societies, seeking extra-terrestrial explanations. Whilst using best judgement at the time, we are sometimes left accounting for the inexplicable or investing large numbers of man hours to establish rational explanations (as recently in the "Skegness sighting" when the Service's professional competence was called into question in an MP's letter to the SofS). These frustrations are compounded by supporting PQs of the sort "... on how many occasions have ..." which require paper searches of long put down records. Neither do explanations that "the cost of the search cannot be justified" satisfy the public, for it only re-inforces their conviction that if the truth cannot be found out there, it is certainly available in the MOD. The MOD may eventually be caught out by cross referring to previous answers and other information, cherished on PCs and exchanged on "the web". The consequences are further questions and ever greater care and time taken to ensure that we do not contradict ourselves.

7. The problem is unlikely to subside especially as the US brings into service over the next decade high flying capabilities such as Global Star, Dark Star, the X-33 and, should it come to fruition, the manned spaceplane. Other nations will follow, especially with UAVs, which may permit risk taking in unauthorised penetrations of airspace. Activities of these sorts would clearly require monitoring and control by the MOD.

8. The extra-terrestrial business is also likely to boom, exacerbating the staffing problem. Continuing discoveries of planets, and emerging knowledge of circumstances needed for at least non-intelligent life, lead to speculation that planets and life may commonly occur. With that change of perception, arguing that our rock alone is a teeming and verdant speck in a vast and sterile nothingness may soon be as unrewarding as the Church once found in continuing to enforce the idea that the world was flat; more so, with the knowledge that many suns are older than our own, and perhaps provide conditions for advanced evolution. Even though some experts argue very low probabilities for intelligent life, and allowing for barely imagined transit distances, requiring unknown uses of physics, we cannot rule out entirely the idea of extra-terrestrial observation/visitation, either covert or overt. Our current policy to retain an open mind on these matters is therefore probably correct.

9. It is a fine judgement whether UFO sightings are MOD matters, or Government responsibilities best located with other agencies given the unproven nature of a vast majority of reports. I

believe they should continue to be managed in the MOD because of inevitable inter-weaving of terrestrial sightings, some of military origin, with extra-terrestrial pre-occupations. Moreover, any future concerns, terrestrial or extra-terrestrial, are likely to require national or international co-ordination responsive only within security alliances.

10. Whether we should set aside for further examination outside the MOD unexplained phenomena, I leave others to decide, knowing that political, scientific and cost judgements are associated with their investigation. I am not wholly convinced, however, that covert investigations would be the best way forwards. When inevitably discovered, they lead to mistaken ideas that "contact has been made" or that "government is worried, knowing something we don't." Should we decide regularly to investigate UFO reports, then we might look at how the US has handled some aspects with, for example, the targeted search of deep space for artificial signals which attracts little public speculation. The downside, of course, is "Roswell" with plastic kits as visible proof of alien capture and reverse engineering. What are US reporting and investigation practices?

11. The UK air defence interest is primarily to automate reporting, handling and administration of incidents so that operators, infrequently switching their busy routines to consider unlikely phenomena, react in a focused and consistent way. Reaction and reporting needs for UFOs are similar to those practices necessary for handling flight safety incidents, and potentially we could mimic them. However, a computer based system is needed to support accurate handling and recording of incidents, and to allow easy extraction of historical data for parliamentary response or retrospective study. Such a system is not, per se, an air defence requirement.

12. We therefore differ in view over responsibilities, organisation and funding. These matters are not for the air defence forces alone to consider, or to utilise the output from. Public reporting of phenomena is essentially government business to which we contribute infrequently when there are matters of direct air defence interest and, on other occasions, to exclude known air movements. As always, when tasked to respond, we do so to the best of our abilities. However, PQs that ask what similarities we have found between recent incidents and those of years ago, or to count them, leave us embroiled in dusty paperchases or in making retrospective assessments of incidents when we are not fully expert.

13. My response has turned out longer than I had intended, but hopefully lays the issues fully on the table as we see them. The policy is fine, how we manage public enquiries probably needs some re-consideration, also whether we need to fund investigation of a minority of incidents which may be inexplicable; above all, we need an electronic database and management system against which

sightings may be uniformly handled and recorded. If nothing else, we owe successors an easily extracted historic record.

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DIST/11/10

25 Apr 97

(A work-creation programme  
for the DIS, I think.)

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

Copy to:  
AOAD1  
PSO/ACAS  
DAO  
Hd Sec(AS)  
DI Sec  
DPR(RAF)  
AD/DI55

Already  
had

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) - POLICY

## References

- A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 29 Jan 97
- B. D/DIST/11/10 dated 3 Feb 97
- C. D/DAO/1/13 dated 25 Mar 97
- D. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 2 Apr 97
- E. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 22 Apr 97

1. My apologies firstly for not responding sooner to your minutes at Ref. Unfortunately it took much longer than expected, at the time of my holding reply, to recover from a number of staff changes and to give the subject sufficient attention against other priorities. I am pleased that we should have this debate since at present there is a significant mismatch between our assumed responsibilities and our ability to resource them.

**Policy**

2. Referring to the policy stated in your initial minute (Ref A, Annex paras 1 & 2) an immediate difficulty arises over the use of the term 'UFO'. This term is discredited in some circles and I think that consistent use of UAP would be much more satisfactory. This would then avoid an immediate association with 'extraterrestrial' phenomena and the difficulty which arises in trying to distinguish whether events are 'extraterrestrial' or not, a judgement which we are strictly incapable of making. While analysis may enable MoD to identify some phenomena, those that remain are by definition 'unidentified' rather than 'extraterrestrial'.

3. You queried at Ref A, para 3a the extent of DIST interest in UFO reports. We agree that MoD's interest has to be related to defence significance but this is not solely to determine whether

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the UK ADR is breached, as implied by the parenthetical text in your Annex, para 2. DIST's role in support of customer requirements is to assess all source intelligence on foreign weapon systems and science & technology with military relevance. We have the responsibility to decide which sources are most appropriate and how they should be weighted for assessments. We regard UAP as a source, akin in some respects to human reporting not least in that the phenomena are reported by people and may not be fully appreciated or understood at the time. This intelligence interest needs to be explicitly covered in the policy statement and we propose that your Annex, para 2 should read:

'MoD's interest in 'UAP' is limited to examining reported sightings to establish if such activity might have a defence significance, viz:

- a. whether the UKADR has been breached;
- b. what intelligence is revealed on military capabilities of other countries;
- c. whether scientific and technical information of military significance is revealed.'

#### **Arrangements**

4. Referring to your Annex, para 4, in the light of the above we do not consider that MoD can have no interest in extraterrestrial matters and needs to keep an open mind on whether 'unidentified' phenomena may have significance. Additionally the lack of evidence to date in the DIS on the extraterrestrial hypothesis has to reflect the fact that we have not carried out any analysis. Effectively the UAP source is unproven for DIST purposes, a situation of concern even if we never expect it to be as reliable or valuable as other sources. Two principles therefore arise:

#### **Reports**

5. Firstly DIST needs to continue to receive reports in order to make the judgements at para 3b and 3c above. It seems probable that only credible sources are likely to provide enough information for a substantive analysis and we are therefore prepared to constrain ourselves to receive reports in the categories at Ref D, para 2.

#### **Analysis**

6. Secondly DIST needs to have an adequate system in order to reference the information. In line with developing practices for other source intelligence we need a reliable system for the retention and analysis of data. Hitherto the paper records have been much too unwieldy for effective action leading to the failing noted above. The proposed filtering of reports will reduce the volume considerably and we need to take the opportunity to initiate a database now. How we do this remains to be decided. Our resources are heavily over-bid but it seems essential that we establish the database in order to reduce subsequent analysis effort to the minimum. The extent to which we incorporate retrospective reports into the database depends on the resource costs. At best we would aim to apply the proposed filters in order to reduce the task to manageable

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proportions. Concurrently we have to decide whether it should be DIS policy to retain the other reports or rely on your own archive. I favour the latter. Once the database is established and populated we would commission a limited analysis to determine whether reports possess any intelligence, S&T value or discernible patterns (locations, features, performance) and establish the residue of significant unidentified events.

7. This requirement for a database needs to be considered alongside DAO's interests and we should aim to develop a single framework and decide how to share the responsibility for data entry.

#### **Action**

8. We therefore propose to:

- a. plan in conjunction with DAO and customers how to achieve the database;
- b. implement the plan, sharing resources if appropriate;
- c. conduct, in DIST, a limited analysis of events;
- d. review the situation once the database is accessible and no later than 12 months hence.

Section 40

DIST

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32+1

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS) 64/1

13th May 1997

DIST

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS

DAO

DI Sec

DPR(RAF)

Head of Sec(AS)

AOAD1

AD/DI55

*Already  
had this*

'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS' - POLICY

Reference: D/DIST/11/10 dated 25th April 1997

1. Thank you for your minute at Reference setting out the DIS interest in 'UFO' reports.
2. I was grateful for your detailed comments. I think it might be helpful if I list my observations on them in the same order (paragraph numbers in brackets in bold refer to your minute):
  - a. You say that you would prefer the term 'UAP' rather than 'UFO' (para 2). Presentationally this would give us some problems. To the vast majority of the public - and it is the public we deal with - 'UFO' with all its 'extraterrestrial' connotations is the only one they recognise. Most are not interested in the difference and, to avoid any more confusion in their minds, we shall continue with 'UFO'.
  - b. You suggest (para 3) amending the policy statement on MOD's interest to include your own specific areas of interests. However, the current wording 'anything of defence significance' has been couched in fairly general terms so that it can be used in response to PQs, letters from the public, the media etc. We need to be quite sure that there are no hostages to fortune in saying anything more detailed. Are you content to have your interests promulgated more widely given the inevitable questioning that will follow?
  - c. I can assure you that we too are always careful to say that we have an open mind on this issue (para 4).
  - d. For the future we shall copy to you (and DAO) only those sighting reports falling into the three categories set out in my minute to AOAD1 of 2nd April (D/Sec(AS)/64/1) (para 5).

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e. You say (para 6) that you need an adequate reference system for information culled from reports and intend a database, albeit that you have not yet determined how it might be achieved, and that incorporating retrospective reports depends on the costs involved. But you also say that you have to decide whether it should be 'DIS policy to retain other reports or rely on our archive'. I am rather confused about what this means. Are the 'other' reports those copied to you previously which do not fall into the three categories (para d above), or those which will not be copied to you in future? Either way, I am concerned that you favour relying on our archive because you do not say what this might entail and I am afraid there are no Sec(AS) resources to support your work. If there is a DIS requirement for access to archive material I think it makes sense for DIS to retain the information.

f. Returning to the subject of a database (para 7), you suggest DAO's requirements also need considering and propose a single framework, sharing responsibility for data entry. However, AOAD1 has said they have no requirement for a database (D/DAO/1/13 dated 25th March, para 11) and, as I made clear in my reply to him, Sec(AS) has no need of one either. It would be helpful to know who else might be a customer given Sec(AS)'s role as the MOD focal point for this subject, and what 'shared resources' might be used to implement the plan. Sec(AS) has neither staff nor money for this purpose and, I think, DAO is similarly constrained.

3. I am sorry for the length of this note but we do all need to be quite clear what, as a Department, we are doing and why. We need to be very careful about expanding 'UFO' business and, thereby, sending the public a misleading message about the extent of MOD's interest. Of course, should Government policy on this issue change, we will review the extent of our involvement accordingly.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

CHOTS: SEC(AS)2

Section 40

UFOs/policy6

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI(ST)/11/10

28 May 1997

Sec(AS)2

Copy to: AOAD1  
PSO/ACAS  
DAO  
Hd Sec(AS)  
DI Sec  
DPR(RAF)  
AD/DI 55

Head of Sec (AS) - for information

This is DI (St)'s response to my last round of questions about their intention to set up a computer database of "UFO" sightings. I was not aware that DSc(Air) had shown any interest at all in this business - we certainly have never heard from them! I do not propose to respond further.

Section 40

Section 40

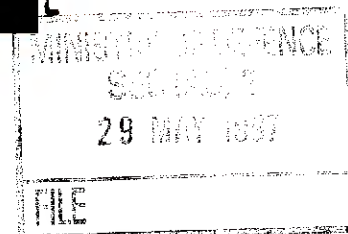
That is fine. I agree.

Section 40

### UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA - POLICY

Ref A: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 13 May 97.

1. Thank you for your minute and your observations.
2. UFO/UAP. I note that you will continue to use the term "UFO" and appreciate your logic. We prefer to use the term UAP internally to DI(ST) since I believe that it more accurately describes the topic.
3. DIS Interests. Your existing policy statement is already classified RESTRICTED - POLICY and I believe that this is adequate to cover my suggested minor amendment. In dealing with the public I would expect you to continue to use the expression "anything of defence significance".
4. Archive. By archive I meant your UFO report files since I assumed that you retain files to assist in answering questions from the public. My proposal was meant to indicate that once the database was established we would not retain any paper reports. I do not envisage that this practice would impose any additional work on your department.
5. Database/Customers. DSc(Air) TG 3 and 4 strongly support our proposed initiative. If DAO still have no interest in any data-basing of material then I will support the minor costs involved from within my own budget. I am still prepared to include any minor DAO requirements if they do not have a significant effect on



costs.

6. I hope that my comments have assisted in your understanding of my intentions. I have no wish to "send the public a misleading message" and I will (as always in the DIS) take appropriate steps to ensure that the public do **not** become aware of this minor project.

Section 40

DI( ST)

Section 40



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI(ST)/11/10

28 May 1997

Sec(AS)2

Copy to: AOAD1  
PSO/ACAS  
DAO  
Hd Sec(AS)  
DI Sec  
DPR(RAF)  
AD/DI 55

Section 40

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is making  
rather a meal out of  
this, I fear.

Section 40

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA - POLICY

Ref A: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 13 May 97.

1. Thank you for your minute and your observations.

2. UFO/UAP. I note that you will continue to use the term "UFO" and appreciate your logic. We prefer to use the term UAP internally to DI(ST) since I believe that it more accurately describes the topic.

3. DIS Interests. Your existing policy statement is already classified RESTRICTED - POLICY and I believe that this is adequate to cover my suggested minor amendment. In dealing with the public I would expect you to continue to use the expression "anything of defence significance".

4. Archive. By archive I meant your UFO report files since I assumed that you retain files to assist in answering questions from the public. My proposal was meant to indicate that once the database was established we would not retain any paper reports. I do not envisage that this practice would impose any additional work on your department. *What is the advantage of converting from paper to a database? Surely entering it on a database would impose additional work?*

5. Database/Customers. DSc(Air) TG 3 and 4 strongly support our proposed initiative. If DAO still have no interest in any data-basing of material then I will support the minor costs involved from within my own budget. I am still prepared to include any minor DAO requirements if they do not have a significant effect on

costs.

6. I hope that my comments have assisted in your understanding of my intentions. I have no wish to "send the public a misleading message" and I will (as always in the DIS) take appropriate steps to ensure that the public do **not** become aware of this minor project.

Section 40



DI( ST)

Section 40





Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 10 February 2005 09:59  
To: Section 40  
Subject: Request for Information - Dr Clarke  
Importance: High

Section 40

As predicted Dr Clarke has put in an FOI request for more UFO information. I would be grateful for your help with the following;

1. Correspondence relating to the outcome of DIST's stated intention (D/DI(ST)/11/10 of 28 May 1997) to produce a data-base of UFO material.
2. Copies of any correspondence, material or information relating to DIST's decision, in October 2000, to no longer receive UFO material copied from the Directorate of Air Staff.

I will search our files for anything on these, but I would be grateful if you could see if you have anything relevant to contribute. I would be grateful for a reply by 6 February, if possible.

Thank you for your help.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

10/02/2005



● D/DS8/25/3 Part A - 1977-1978

UFOs - Parliamentary Correspondence

Same file as D/S4 (Ain) 8/3 Part A .

D/DS8/75/3.

D/DS8/75/3/1 Part A - UFOs Parliamentary Correspondence  
House of Lords Debate 1979

D/DS8/75/3/1 Part B " "

Both destroyed 22 March 1990.

No.

50 working days

or answer on Thursday 27 February 92 by USGS(DP)  
 Draft reply required by 1600 Wednesday 4 March 1992

ENCLOSURE  
 50 PQ No.  
 ENCL No. 96

SEC(AS)

PO60072

ACTION DIVISION:

Draft approved by	Signature or Initials	Contact Tel No	Question copied by Action Division to:
HD SEC(AS)	Section 40		
SEC(AS)1			
Secretary of State			Answer copied to:- As above plus: SO/ACAS AUS(C) DPR(RAF) DDGE/AEW Sec(NATO/UK)(C) DI55
Minister(AF)			
Minister(DP)			
Minister(DS)			
US of S(DP)			

Type of Question:- ~~First Order Oral~~ (No .....), Non Priority Written;  
 Supplementary Questions are not required.

Please type Member's name, party, constituency and Question here  
 Mr George Foulkes (Labour)(Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make a statement on the number of unidentified supersonic radar contacts detected in the vicinity of RAF Machrihanish since January.

DRAFT ANSWER

There have been no unidentified supersonic radar contacts detected in the vicinity of RAF Machrihanish since January.

805  
 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
 05 MAR 1992  
 DIRECTORATE OF AIR DEFENCE (RAF)



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BACKGROUND NOTE: PQ6007

1. This Question is one of four prompted by a recent article in the Scotsman speculating that a secret American aircraft has been operating around RAF Machrihanish. A copy of the background note supporting the draft answers to PQs 5983, 5979 and 6048 is attached.

2. Mr Foulkes would appear to be trying to establish whether any secret supersonic aircraft have been operating from RAF Machrihanish, as alleged in the Scotsman article. However, his Question asks only about unidentified radar contacts since January and the Scotsman article refers to an alleged unidentified contact in November 1991.

3. The draft Answer is self-explanatory.

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BACKGROUND NOTE - PQs 5983F and 5979F



1. These two questions from Martin Redmond MP and a third (due for answer later this week) from George Foulkes MP have probably been prompted by a recent article in the Scotsman speculating that "America's most secret aircraft has been operating in Scottish airspace" near RAF Machrihanish. The aircraft is alleged to be a "very high supersonic, possibly hypersonic" aircraft code-named "Aurora", and to be the "ultra-secret replacement" for the SR-71 Blackbird reconnaissance aircraft. Copies of the Scotsman article and a follow-up article in Jane's Defence Weekly are attached at Annex A. A copy of a minute sent to APS/Secretary of State in reply to a request for advice on the former article is attached at Annex B.
2. The last SR-71 left the UK from RAF Mildenhall in January 1990 - this is public knowledge - and HQ 3rd Air Force advise that there have been no further visits to the UK. HQ3AF and the US Embassy have also confirmed that no secret new US aircraft has operated in Scottish airspace. The draft answer to PQ 5979F demonstrates that no unusual aircraft (apart from an Antonov) landed at RAF Machrihanish in the past year.
3. There may or may not be an Aurora project. There is no knowledge in MOD of a "black" programme of this nature, although it would not surprise the relevant desk officers in the Air Staff and DIS if it did exist. The simple answer to PQ 5983F (about what assistance the MOD has given to the US project) would therefore be "none" - but this pre-supposes the existence of the project. Nor would we be likely to be prepared to say publicly if any MOD assistance had been given to such a project. To answer instead that we have no knowledge of any such project is also arguably inappropriate, since in circumstances where we were aware we would probably not be prepared to say so. It is therefore suggested that the question is answered by saying that the existence of any such project (or operation) would be a matter for the US authorities - "would be" rather than "is" to avoid any implication that the project exists.

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on in the month since the Usher Hall event to focus sharply on independence — and not on whether it is possible or impossible, but whether it is desirable.

The shadow Scottish secretary, Donald Dewar, said that "Scotland can have independence if Scotland wants it", but took every opportunity to attack the nationalist case.

He said that independence with a separate Scottish currency would pose unnecessary burdens on Scotland and reduce its home market from 50 million to five million people.

The SNP leader, Alex Salmond, countered that Scot-

Both Mr Dewar and the Scottish Liberal Democrat leader, Malcolm Bruce, bitterly criticised Mr Lang for arguing that Scotland had no choice of between independence and the present system.

Mr Bruce said that Spain, France and Italy had all moved to decentralise power and argued that Scottish home rule would lead to a federal Britain.

Mr Lang clung to his assertion that Labour and Liberal Democrat plans for a Scottish parliament would be so unstable that they would cause the UK to break up.

Minister's speech; TV in the chair, Page 6

## Hot on the trail of America's biggest flying secret

By Alan Dron

REPORTS of mysterious, fast-moving radar blips and strange engine sounds have heightened speculation that America's most secret aircraft has been operating in Scottish airspace.

According to reports reaching *The Scotsman*, an RAF air traffic controller was startled to see a radar blip emerge from the area of the joint NATO-RAF station at Machrihanish at approximately three times the speed of sound.

Puzzled, he phoned the remote base near the tip of the Kintyre peninsula to inquire what type of aircraft was being operated — and was promptly told to forget what he had just seen.

At around the same time in November last year, there was a report from nine miles away from the base of an unusual, car-splitting jet noise.

While the clues are sketchy,

they fit with what a little is already known of a shadowy project called Aurora.

Aurora is believed to refer to the ultra-secret replacement for the high-altitude, Mach 3 SR-71 'Blackbird' reconnaissance aircraft. Reports of a "stealthy" Blackbird successor have been circulating since the mid-1980s.

It is another product of Lockheed's notorious "Skunk Works" in Burbank, California. This secrecy-shrouded plant has designed the U-2, SR-71 and the F-117A Stealth fighter.

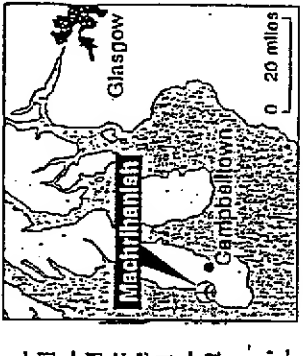
In 1990, just after the SR-71's retirement, the Lockheed Advanced Development Command president, Ben Rich, told *Jane's Defence Weekly*: "There is a need for some vehicle. — I didn't say SR-71 — to complement the satellites. I won't tell you what it is, but there is a need."

Told of the Scottish reports, Bill Sweetman, technical edi-

'It's been described as a noise that people don't forget when they hear it'

Bill Sweetman

tor of Jane's Information Group and an authority on Stealth aircraft technology, said: "That's very interesting. The last time I received a call out of the blue from a Scottish journalist was about five years ago. He was talking about



POLITICAL leaders in Ireland were last night urged to seek a review of the law as a judge, barred a pregnant schoolgirl who had been raped from having an abortion in Britain.

There were calls for the resignation of the Irish attorney general, Harry Whelehan, who initiated the legal moves to block the abortion and the Irish Family Planning Association called for the review of the law.

The case of the 14-year-old girl was held in camera at the Irish High Court but the text of the judgment disclosed that

Full story, Page 2

PROPOSALS to combat flooding in Badenoch could prove disastrous for two of Scotland's most important wildlife sites, the Nature Conservancy Council for Scotland claimed yesterday, writes Frank Urquhart.

Both schemes being considered by Highland Regional Council would have a detrimental impact on the environment of the Insh Marshes, part of the River Spey flood plain, and the gravel fan of the nearby River Feshie, a report commissioned by the NCC has concluded.

Full report, Page 9

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AND ASSOCIA  
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Address

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Type of organisation e.g. club, church, club

20/12  
A

## French firm's new missile

SINGAPORE

Aerospatiale was due to unveil its MM 15 anti-ship missile at the Asian Aerospace exhibition in Singapore which opened on 25 February.

The ship-launched missile has been developed in the last three months, according to officials from Aerospatiale's tactical missiles division (Engins Tactiques).

The MM 15, derived from the AS 15 TT air-launched weapon system, is designed to meet the growing demand for conventional lightweight weapons to destroy small surface targets within the 8-15 km range.

"Our new MM 15 missile will be offered as a direct competitor to the British Aerospace Dynamics ship-launched Sea Skua," a company official said.

According to Aerospatiale, the MM 15 could fill the gap between the shorter range (8 km) light naval artillery and long range tactical anti-ship missiles such as Exocet (20 km).

"In the 8-15 km gap, there is no effective conventional method of dealing with small targets which do not justify the use of Exocet."

MM 15 has a maximum effective range of 15 km, a maximum speed of Mach 0.9 and weighs 103 kg with a 30 kg warhead, says Aerospatiale. The light weight allows operation by small, fast surface vessels.

The MM 15 has no homing head but is guided by a radar-beam command-guidance technique via the Thomson-CSF AGRION 15 (X-band, pulse-compression) guidance radar installed on the platform.

The radar is used with the AS 15 TT helicopterborne missile system in service with the French, Saudi Arabian and Bahraini navies. It tracks both target and missile and computes the error in range and bearing between them.

# Mystery contact may be Aurora

## RECONNAISSANCE

BY BILL SWEETMAN

MINNEAPOLIS

Stealth Fighter lend credence to the new reports.

Meanwhile, the California booms are the first substantial, corroborated evidence of unidentified supersonic aircraft operating over the USA.

On at least four occasions, sonic booms have registered on some of the 220 sensors across Southern California, from the Los Angeles basin to the eastern edge of the Mojave desert, according to Jim Mori, a USGS seismologist at the California Institute of Technology. The incidents were recorded in June, October, November and late January. The seismologists estimate that the targets were flying at speeds between Mach 3 and Mach 4.

So far, all the tracks have been headed north and east over the Los Angeles basin, pointing directly to southern Nevada, 500 km away. Most secret US

Air Force activities, including the large flight-test base at Groom Lake, are within the Nellis range in Nevada. Since the range is only 8 min from Los Angeles at such speeds, the targets were presumably decelerating as they crossed the coast.

The USGS first noticed that its seismographs could detect sonic booms when they registered space shuttle landings at Edwards AFB, California.

Mori says the wave-forms detected in the latest incidents are characteristic of a smaller vehicle than the 37 m long shuttle orbiter. Neither the shuttle nor the single SR-71B which NASA maintains in flight status were operating on the days the booms were detected.

Reports that USAF is developing hypersonic aircraft in undisclosed 'black' programmes date back to the mid-1980s. In early 1988, the *New York Times* reported that a Mach 6, stealthy reconnaissance aircraft called Aurora was being developed to replace the SR-71, which was retired in early 1990.

More recently, witnesses in Nevada and California have reported hearing extremely loud or 'pulsing' noises caused by unidentified aircraft.

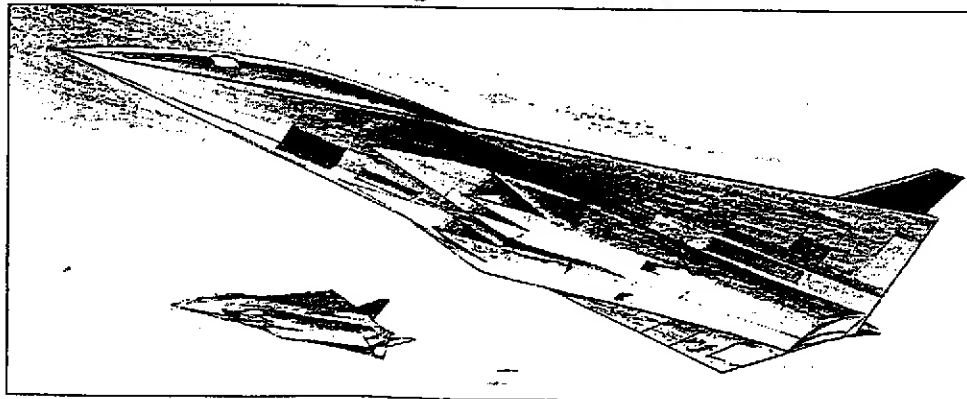
Mounting evidence suggests that the US Government has secretly developed and deployed a hypersonic reconnaissance aircraft, probably as a replacement for the SR-71.

A Royal Air Force air traffic controller tracked a target leaving the NATO-RAF base at Machrihanish, Scotland, at an estimated speed of Mach 3 last November, according to *The Scotsman* newspaper last week. Another witness heard an extremely loud jet noise near the base around the same time, it said.

In the USA, highly supersonic aircraft believed to be operating from Nevada have been detected and tracked by seismological sensors installed by the US Geological Service (USGS). The booms were first recorded in June last year.

Machrihanish is one of the most remote bases in Europe, located near the tip of the Kintyre peninsula in Western Scotland. Recent base modernization and a rumoured association with the F-117

*Is this Aurora? Artist's impression of a Mach 6 reconnaissance aircraft incorporating ejector ramjet engine fuelled by liquid methane or hydrogen. Stealth would be maintained through ceramic radar absorbent material able to withstand the fierce temperatures encountered at hypersonic speeds (Julian Cook)*



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Annex B



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)26/8

19 February 1992

APS/Secretary of State

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS

A/D Air Off

Sec(NATO/UK)(C)2

RAF MACHRIHANISH - SCOTSMAN ARTICLE

1. You asked for advice on the article in yesterday's Scotsman which speculated that "America's most secret aircraft has been operating in Scottish airspace", near RAF Machrihanish. The aircraft is alleged to be a "very high supersonic, possibly hypersonic" aircraft code-named "Aurora", and to be the "ultra-secret replacement" for the SR-71 Blackbird reconnaissance aircraft.
2. The last SR-71 left the UK from RAF Mildenhall in January 1990 - this is public knowledge - and HQ 3rd Air Force advise that there have been no further visits to the UK.
3. There may or may not be an Aurora project. I can find no one on the Air Staff or at desk level in the DIS who knows for sure that such a project exists, but it would not surprise them if it did. However, until the Americans wish to trial or operate the new aircraft in UK airspace this is arguably a matter only for them. If you wish to pursue this aspect further, your best course may be to consult CDI's organisation.
4. On the question of whether a secret new aircraft has operated in Scottish airspace, I am on firmer ground. HQ3AF and the US Embassy advise that this aspect of the Scotsman story is unfounded, and this is confirmed by the Air Staff.
5. The press office have been advised not to comment on the Scotsman article (on the grounds that if any such aircraft did exist and had been operating in the UK we would refuse to

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comment). HQ3AF advise that there has been no further press interest in the article at their end.

*Original signed.*

Section 40

Sec(AS)1

Section 40

SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED



## PART 5 – SECTION 1: Protectively Marking Information

### CHAPTER 1: UK Protective Markings

#### Protective Marking System

1. The UK's Protective Marking System is recognised throughout Government departments and agencies. It is designed to protect sensitive assets. Once applied, protective markings show the value of an asset in terms of damage likely to result from its compromise, and decide its level of protection (see Protective Marking System).

#### Protective Markings

2. Only the originator can apply a protective marking to an asset and this cannot be changed without the originator's (or his/her successor or current branch/unit now responsible for the asset if the originator is no longer in post) consent.

#### Mandatory Control Measures

3.

The protective marking on any asset must be conspicuous so that its value is very clear. Such markings must be centred at the top and bottom of each page. They must be in larger or bolder print than the text.

4.

The protective marking is given to an asset by the originator and it may not be changed without the originator's (see paragraph 2 above) authority. This applies equally to those assets originating from foreign Governments or organisations.

5. **Protective Markings.** There are four levels of protective marking that you can apply to sensitive assets, depending on the degree of sensitivity involved:

*TOP SECRET (Annex A)*

*SECRET (Annex B)*

*CONFIDENTIAL (Annex C); and*

*RESTRICTED (Annex D)*

**What happens if too high a protective marking is applied?**

6. If too high a protective marking is applied, it may unnecessarily be limiting access to the asset, increasing the cost of the security controls needed for its protection and impairing the efficiency with which addressee organisations are able to conduct business.

**What happens if too low a protective marking is applied?**

7. If too low a protective marking is applied it may put the asset at risk of accidental or deliberate compromise, since proper security controls may not be in place to give adequate protection.

**Guidance in deciding on the right protective marking**

8. The chart at *Annex E* is designed to help make a decision on the right protective marking to apply to an asset.

**Downgrading information**

9. The regular assessment of holdings of protectively marked assets in any media is desirable in terms of security, cost and convenience. Any assessment should consider whether the current grading needs to be kept or whether it is possible to downgrade or destroy the material. Only the originator, or successor, may authorize downgrading but exceptionally, where the originator, or successor, cannot be traced, copy assets may be downgraded by the holders after consultation with other addressees. MOD F 171 (*Annex F*) may be used to ask for and receive authorised downgrading.

## Annex A: TOP SECRET Protective Marking

<b>TOP SECRET</b>	
<b>Asset Value - consequence of compromise</b>	<p>The compromise of assets marked <b>TOP SECRET</b> would be likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• threaten directly the internal stability of the UK or friendly countries</li> <li>• lead directly to widespread loss of life</li> <li>• cause exceptionally grave damage to the effectiveness or security of UK or allied forces or to the continuing effectiveness of extremely valuable security or intelligence operations</li> <li>• cause exceptionally grave damage to relations with friendly governments</li> <li>• cause severe long term damage to the UK economy</li> </ul>
<b>Level of protection</b>	<p>The level of protection provided for asset marked <b>TOP SECRET</b> should ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is no unauthorised access</li> <li>• actual or attempted compromise will be detected and those responsible will be identified</li> </ul>
<b>Baseline objectives</b>	<p>For the storage and control of assets marked <b>TOP SECRET</b> do everything possible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prevent accidental compromise or damage during storage, handling, use, processing, transmission or transport</li> <li>• strictly limit knowledge of planned movement of physical assets to those with 'need to know'</li> <li>• offer a degree of resistance against compromise by a sustained and sophisticated or violent attack</li> <li>• detect actual or attempted compromise and make it likely that those responsible will be identified</li> <li>• dispose of or destroy in a manner to prevent reconstruction or identification of constituent parts</li> </ul>
<b>Access requirements</b>	<p>For access to assets marked <b>TOP SECRET</b> the following level of clearance is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed Vetting (DV) - In some cases a Security Check (SC) may be sufficient. For confirmation of appropriate level of security clearance - Refer to Part 5, Section 2.</li> </ul>
<b>Application requirements</b>	<p>The protective marking <b>TOP SECRET</b> should only be applied to sensitive assets which relate to the following areas of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International relations</li> <li>• Defence</li> <li>• Public order and civil rights</li> <li>• Economics</li> </ul>

## Annex B: SECRET Protective Marking

<b>SECRET</b>	
<b>Asset Value - consequence of compromise</b>	<p>The compromise of assets marked <b>SECRET</b> would be likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• raise international tension</li> <li>• seriously damage relations with friendly governments</li> <li>• threaten life directly or seriously prejudice public order or individual security or liberty</li> <li>• cause serious damage to the operational effectiveness or security of UK or allied forces or the continuing effectiveness of highly valuable security or intelligence operations</li> <li>• cause substantial material damage to national finances or economic and commercial interests</li> </ul>
<b>Level of protection</b>	<p>The level of protection provided for assets marked <b>SECRET</b> should ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is no unauthorised access</li> <li>• actual or attempted compromise will be detected and those responsible will be identified</li> </ul>
<b>Baseline objectives</b>	<p>For the storage and control of assets marked <b>SECRET</b>, do everything possible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make accidental compromise or damage highly unlikely during storage, handling, use, processing, transmission or transport</li> <li>• limit knowledge of planned movement of physical assets</li> <li>• offer a degree of resistance to deliberate compromise by a professional or violent attack</li> <li>• detect actual or attempted compromise and help identify those responsible</li> <li>• dispose or destroy in a manner to make retrieval or reconstruction highly unlikely and prevent identification of constituent parts</li> </ul>
<b>Access requirements</b>	<p>For access to assets marked <b>SECRET</b> the following level of clearance is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security Check (SC) - In some cases a Basic Check (BC) may be sufficient. For confirmation of appropriate level of security clearance - <u>Refer to Part 6, Section 2.</u></li> </ul>
<b>Application requirements</b>	<p>The protective <b>SECRET</b> marking should only be applied to sensitive assets which relate to the following areas of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International relations</li> <li>• Defence</li> <li>• Public order and civil rights</li> <li>• Economic interests</li> </ul>



## Annex C: CONFIDENTIAL Protective Marking

<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	
<b>Asset value - consequence of compromise</b>	<p>The compromise of assets marked <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> would be likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• materially damage diplomatic relations, that is, cause formal protest or other sanctions</li> <li>• prejudice individual security or liberty</li> <li>• cause damage to the operational effectiveness or security of UK or allied forces or the effectiveness of valuable security or intelligence operations</li> <li>• work substantially against national finances or economic and commercial interests</li> <li>• substantially undermine the financial viability of major organisations</li> <li>• impede the investigation or facilitate the commission of serious crime</li> <li>• seriously impede the development or operation of major government policies</li> <li>• shut down or otherwise substantially disrupt significant national operations</li> </ul>
<b>Level of protection</b>	<p>The level of protection provided for assets marked <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> should ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inhibit casual or wilful unauthorised access</li> <li>• be likely to help in the identification of compromise</li> </ul>
<b>Baseline objectives</b>	<p>For the storage and control of assets marked <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>, do everything possible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make accidental compromise or damage unlikely during storage, handling, use, processing, transmission or transport</li> <li>• control knowledge of planned movement of physical assets</li> <li>• offer a degree of resistance to deliberate compromise</li> <li>• detect actual or attempted compromise and help identify those responsible</li> <li>• dispose or destroy in a manner to make retrieval or reconstruction unlikely</li> </ul>
<b>Access requirements</b>	<p>For access to assets marked <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> the following level of clearance is required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Check (BC) - In some cases a Counter Terrorist Check (CTC) or certain elements of an SC may be needed. For confirmation of appropriate level of security clearance Refer to Part 6, Section 2.</li> </ul>
<b>Application requirements</b>	<p>The protective marking <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> should only be applied to sensitive assets which relate to the following areas of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International relations</li> <li>• Defence</li> <li>• Public order and civil rights</li> <li>• Economic interests</li> <li>• Law enforcement</li> <li>• Policy and operations of public service</li> </ul>

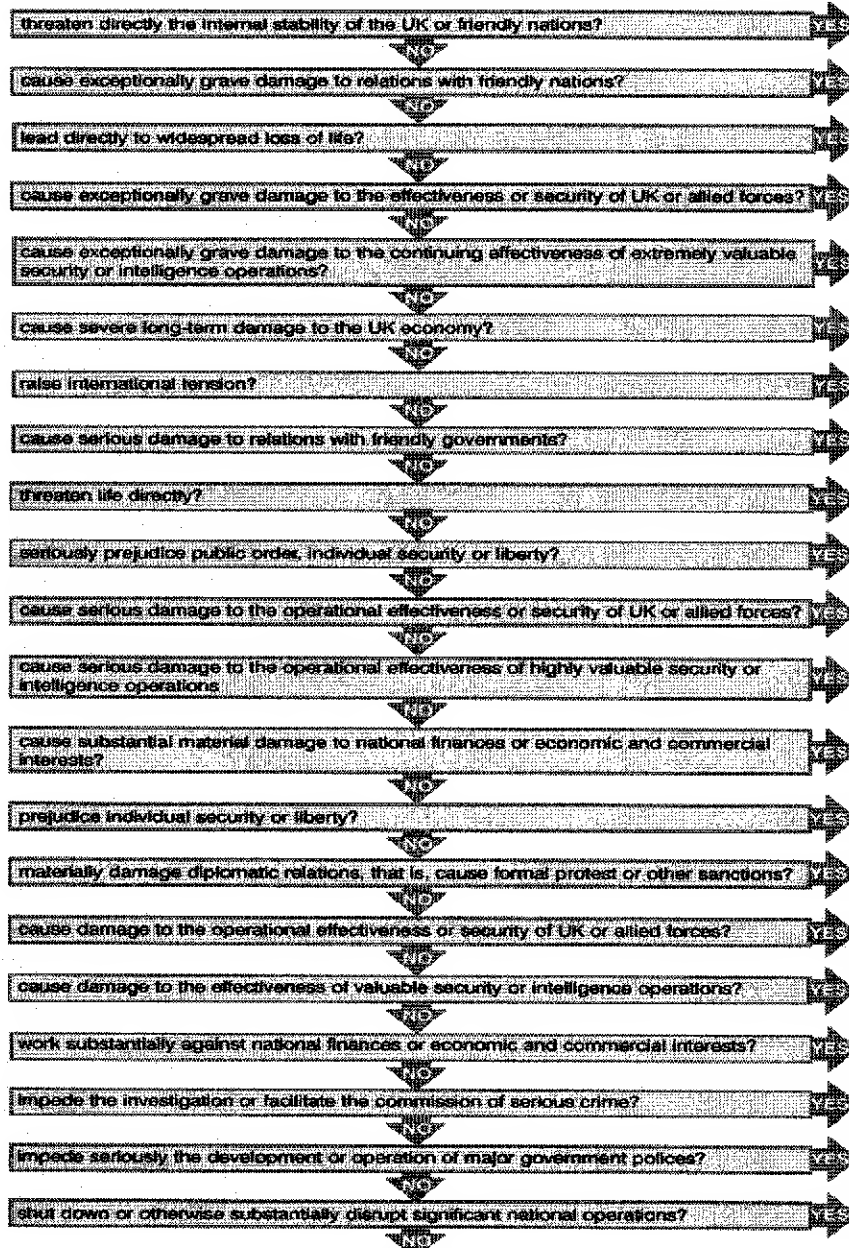
## Annex D: RESTRICTED Protective Marking

<b>RESTRICTED</b>	
<b>Asset Value - consequence of compromise</b>	<p>The compromise of assets marked <b>RESTRICTED</b> would be likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adversely affect diplomatic relations</li> <li>• cause substantial distress to individuals</li> <li>• make it more difficult to maintain the operational effectiveness or security of UK or allied forces</li> <li>• cause financial loss or loss of earning potential to, or facilitate improper gain or advantage for, individuals or companies</li> <li>• prejudice the investigation or facilitate the commission of crime</li> <li>• breach proper undertakings to maintain the confidence of information provided by third parties</li> <li>• impede the effective development or operation of government policies</li> <li>• breach statutory restrictions on the disclosure of information (except the Data Protection Act - which can be addressed by other Impact statements and/or the e-Government Security Framework).</li> <li>• disadvantage government in commercial or policy negotiations with others</li> <li>• undermine the proper management of the public sector and its operations</li> </ul>
<b>Level of protection</b>	<p>The level of protection provided for assets marked <b>RESTRICTED</b> should ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote discretion in order to avoid unauthorised access</li> </ul>
<b>Baseline objectives</b>	<p>For the storage and control of assets marked <b>RESTRICTED</b> do everything possible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make accidental compromise or damage unlikely during storage, handling, use, processing, transmission or transport</li> <li>• deter deliberate compromise or opportunist attack</li> <li>• dispose of or destroy in a manner to make reconstruction unlikely</li> </ul>
<b>Access requirements</b>	<p>Other than 'need to know' principle, no specific clearance is required - In some cases a CTC may be needed. For confirmation of appropriate level of security clearance - <b>Refer to Part 6, Section 2.</b></p>
<b>Application requirements</b>	<p>The protective marking <b>RESTRICTED</b> should only be applied to sensitive assets which relate to the following areas of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International relations</li> <li>• Defence</li> <li>• Public order and civil rights</li> <li>• Economic interests</li> <li>• Law enforcement</li> <li>• Policy and operations of public service</li> </ul>

## Annex E: Deciding on a Protective Marking

### Asset Values - Consequence of Compromise

Would accidental or deliberate compromise be likely to:



Continued on next page

### Marking

#### TOP SECRET

For a description of the level of protection, baseline objectives and access rights – refer to Annex A to Chapter 2.

Should only apply to:  
International Relations  
Defence  
Public Order & Civil Rights

#### SECRET

For a description of the level of protection, baseline objectives and access rights – refer to Annex B to Chapter 2.

Should only apply to:  
International Relations  
Defence  
Public Order & Civil Rights  
Economic Interests

#### CONFIDENTIAL

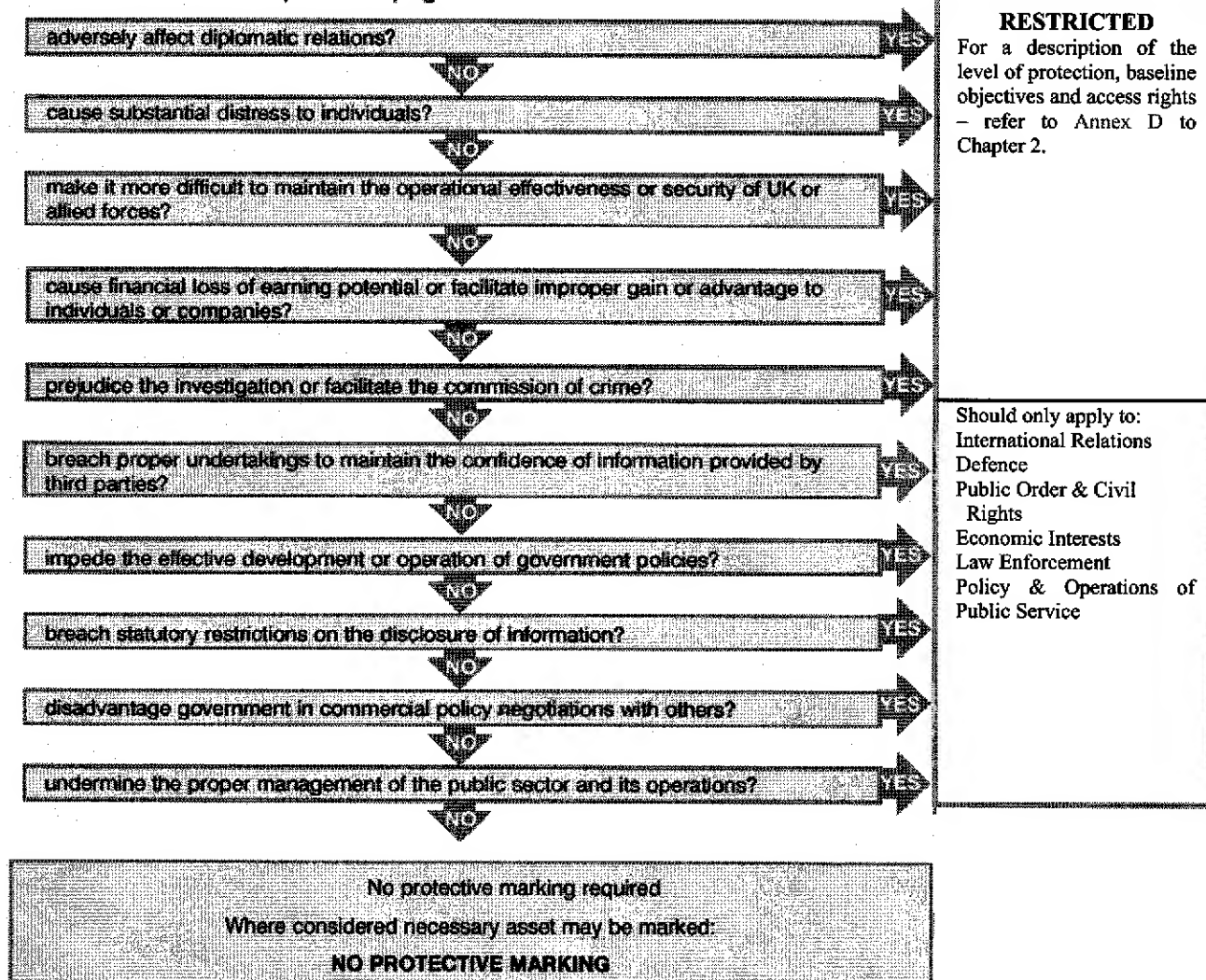
For a description of the level of protection, baseline objectives and access rights – refer to Annex C to Chapter 2.

Should only apply to:  
International Relations  
Defence  
Public Order & Civil Rights  
Economic Interests  
Law Enforcement  
Policy & Operations of Public Service

## Asset Values - Consequence of Compromise

## Marking

Continued from the previous page



## **Annex F: Example of MOD Form 171**

### **MOD Form 171**

#### **Part 1 - Request for Downgrading of Protectively Marked Documents**

To:	From:
-----	-------

It is requested that authority be given for the downgrading of the documents listed overleaf. If downgrading is agreed, please state new protective marking in column (e); otherwise insert "No change".

Date.....

Signature.....



**Part 2 - Authority to Downgrade Protectively Marked Documents**

To:	From:
-----	-------

Please note that the documents listed below should now be graded as shown in column (e)

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Reference No.	Description (i.e. File, letter, report etc.)	Date	Present protective marking	Revised protective marking

Date..... Signature..... Grade.....

21-01-2005-083912-001  
Reply due 17 Feb 2005

<b>DAS</b>
102No. ....
20 JAN 2005
FILE .....



Dr David Clarke

Section 40

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff - FOIA  
Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

19 January 2005

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 20 December 2004 and for the enclosed annexe listing "UFO related files identified as preserved in/for the TNA." This list, in addition to your replies to my questions, were most helpful and have cleared up the outstanding queries outlined in my letter of 23 November.

Using the annexe I have now extracted a list of 34 files that are relevant to my research project, dating from 1976-1984, that fall under the category "To Be Allocated TNA references." Some of these files appear to be already with TNA, while others appear to be in the process of transfer from MoD to TNA. Could you confirm how many of these files are now at Kew and supply an approximate date for delivery of the remainder?

Section 40

Returning to your letter I note your advice concerning my stated intention to make a request for UFO policy files under the FOIA 2000, now in place. Given the upper limit allowed for the amount of work a Department can expend on an individual request, I have carefully considered what information I require in order to fall within that limit (which I understand is £600).

Therefore, under the Freedom of Information Act I wish to apply for copies of the following information:

1. A copy of the entire file D/Sec(AS)12/1 Pt A – UFO Policy 1985. In your letter of 23 December 2003 (under the former Code) you estimated £180 for processing this file.
2. Copies of material from files D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pts A (UFOs – Policy 1995-97) and B (UFOs – Policy Jan-Sept 1997) as follows: I believe these two files contain additional documents that relate to the correspondence you provided in

December 2004 that had been extracted from file D/DPR(RAF)326 Pt A.  
Specifically I wish to request copies of the following:

D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 14 March 1997 ✓  
D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 29 January 1997 ✓  
D/DIST/11/10 dated 3 February 1997 ✓  
D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 2 April 1997 ✓  
D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 22 April 1997 ✓

I also request copies of any additional correspondence that follow in this sequence, specifically relating to the outcome of DIST's stated intention (D/DI(ST)/11/10 of 28 May 1997) to produce a "data-base" of UFO material.

DIS

3. Copies of any correspondence, material or information relating to DIST's decision, in October 2000, to no longer receive UFO material copied from the Directorate of Air Staff. Referring to your list, I would presume this material can be found in files D/Sec(AS)/64/1 Pts D and E (UFO Policy 1998-2002).

DIS

I hope these very specific requests can be met under the FOIA. If I can provide any additional information that could assist in the processing of this application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

④ One final question, unrelated to my FOIA request, relates to the information you provided on 28 July 2003 (your ref: D/DAS/64/3/11) in response to my request for information regarding UFO reports received by MoD from West Wales during 1977.

Your letter included a copy of a letter dated 24 May 1977 from Mr Nicholas Edwards MP to Minister of Defence Dr John Gilbert (your ref AP/JW 216/77) with attached draft response and reply from James Wellbeloved MP dated 16 June 1977.

Taken from

DS8/25/3 A?

75/3A

UFO's Parliam. Correspondence

I have been unable to locate the original documents noted above among the correspondence files from 1977 that were opened at TNA on 1 January, during my visit to Kew last week. Could you supply the title and reference of the file from which these documents were sourced? I presume the file in question is among those listed as "To Be Allocated TNA references" in the list I have attached, either D/DS8/2/3C (UFO reports and correspondence Oct-Dec 1977) or D/DS8/75/2/1B (Ditto). I would appreciate any assistance you can provide to locate the correct file.

Section 40  
asked about  
Status of  
file

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

TNA 110000

15/3/05

138 boxes - 4 v/o 1/6

1288-1291

MoD UFO records - To Be Allocated TNA refs

TNA	date	title	former reference
<b>AIR 20</b>	Sept 1978-Jan 1979	Unidentified Flying Objects	HdS4(Air)/BF82
<b>DEFE 13</b>	1976	Sir John Langford-Holt MO Mr J Hennessy - UFO enquiry	AF/BJ84/76
	1976	Dr Coleman JP Mr R J Whitrow - UFO enquiry	AF/BY76/76
<b>DEFE 24/1291</b>	Sep-Oct 1978	Reports & correspondence (due for release 2009)	D/DS8/75/2/3G ✓ 12 91 1291
<b>DEFE 24/1205</b>	-1977	UFO Reports & correspondence, Oct-Dec 1977	✓ Open TNA D/DS8/2/3C
<b>DEFE 24/1206</b>	-1977	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/1B ✓ Open TNA
	1978	UFO Parliamentary Correspondence	D/DS8/2/3 Pt A
	1979	UFO reports and correspondence	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt F
	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt A
	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt B
	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt D
	1979	TV discussion on UFOs	D/DS8/75/6 Pt A
	1979	Satellite debris	D/DS8/75/7 Pt A
	1980	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt A
	1980	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt B
	1981	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt A
	1981	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt B

COWLEY

1982	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence D/DS8/10/209 Pt C	
1982	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence D/DS8/10/209 Pt D	
1983	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence D/DS8/10/209 Pt E	
1983	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt A	
1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt B	
1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence D/DS8/10/209 Pt F	
1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence D/DS8/10/209 Pt G	
✓ <b>DEFE 31/163</b> 1979	UFOs: incidents	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 21
✓ <b>DEFE 31/164</b> 1979	UFOs: incidents	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 22
✓ <b>DEFE 31/165</b> 1979	UFOs: incidents	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 23
✓ <b>DEFE 31/166</b> 1979	UFOs: incidents	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 24
✓ <b>DEFE 31/167</b> 1979 (due for release 2010)	UFOs: incidents	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 25
		Open TNA to Q May 04 open 1/4/05 TNA sub
<b>DEFE 71/125</b> 1977	Ministerial correspondence on UFO sightings on Humberside in May 1977 USofS LAF AF/JW234/77 (due for release 2008 – not yet transferred to TNA)	
<b>DEFE 71</b> 1976	M Heseltine	AF/JW221/76
1976	Nigel Lawson MP Mr Aleyne Body – UFO	AF/JW260/76
1976	R Hattersley Esq Mr R Park – UFO	AF/JW270/76
1977	John Ellis – UFOs	MR/122505
		Not Referred Up yet 04/05



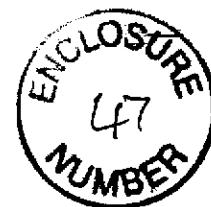


From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone

(Direct dial)

020 7218 2140

(Switchboard)

020 7218 9000

(Fax)

**Section 40**

e-mail

das-ufo-office@mod.uk



Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**

Your Reference

Our Reference

D/DAS/64/3/11

Date

20th December 2004

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your letter of 23 November.

With regard to your questions I will cover these in the same order as your letter.

QA(1) Pg 1: DAS is an integrated Service and civilian team and our role is to support the Chief and Assistant Chief of the Air Staff and Ministers in all central policy, political and parliamentary aspects of non-operational activity both at home and overseas and on issues which relate to US Visiting Forces. There are a total of 53 personnel in DAS. **Section 40** is the Assistant Director of the Secretariat and Lower Airspace section of the Directorate and has been in this post since January 2004. He has 12 personnel working in his areas of responsibility. The Secretariat processes Parliamentary, Public and Media business affecting the Air Staff. The Lower Airspace section is responsible for the policy and regulation of the UK Low Flying System, handling of complaints from members of the public and parliamentary business about low flying military aircraft. UFOs sit within the Secretariat area of DAS.

QB(6) Pg5: The MOD continues to pursue the possible release of the paragraphs of the Flying Saucer Working Party Report Number 7 which was withheld under Section 3(4) of the Public Records Act. However, to date there has been no progress. If the release of this information is secured in the near future we will inform you.

QD(2) Pg7: The Defence Geographic and Imagery Intelligence Agency were asked to look at a colour slide from which **Section 40** photograph had been taken. They commented that there was a lack of background knowledge concerning certain factors regarding the conditions under which the photograph was taken to permit a totally informed opinion. There was also insufficient evidence about the known distance from the camera to the object or the known scalar (distance) on the object to determine the size of the object. However, a scan was produced to enable investigation under greater magnification the structure of the anomaly. From this it was noted that there appeared to be little or no image movement across the frame, indicating a relatively fast exposure or the use of a tripod. There was no indication of specular reflection, nor of lens flare and the illuminated plane of the object passes through the very centre of the frame. The imagery experts concluded that no definitive conclusions could be gathered from the evidence submitted, however, as the illuminated plane of the object passes through the centre of the frame, this could indicate a possible lens anomaly, such as a droplet of moisture.

QD(5) Pg8: There is no evidence to suggest that crop circles are caused by anything of military concern and the MOD does not therefore investigate reported sightings or carry out any research into them. Members of the public do sometimes associate crop circles with UFOs and write to DAS about them. No separate record is kept of these and they are filed in the order in which they are received with our normal UFO reports and correspondence. To my knowledge we hold no files either created during Nick Pope's time in this post, or since, which are specifically about crop circles.

You also requested clarification of a number of discrepancies in the lists of UFO related files awaiting transfer to TNA which we have provided. I consulted our records Department and can now clarify these points for you.

Annex A, Page 1

a) As requested, attached at Annex A to this letter is a list of files due to be released between 2006 and 2009. Please note the comments contained in the footnotes.

b) The preparation of files for transfer to TNA can take a considerable period of time. Following selection at review, there is cleaning (repairing the file from the ravage of time to TNA standards), draft cataloguing, clearing by TNA staff and then the decision by TNA to accept and collect the file.

c) There are two files (hence the two DEFE references given) both of which appear to have the former reference D/DS8/75/2/3D. This might have been an error in numbering when the files were originally created. One of these is already at TNA and the other will be transferred in the near future.

Annex A, Page 2

a) Yes we can confirm that these are the same files.

b) These files have been re-catalogued as DEFE 31/163 to 167. All five are at TNA.

You may wish to be aware that sometimes piece numbers are changed during preparation for TNA. This may lead to discrepancies between numbers given in lists requested during the preparation period and those which finally appear in TNA catalogue. For the correct number by which documents can be requested at the TNA you should consult TNA catalogue.

Annex A, Page 3

Four of the five files have now been located and are awaiting assignment to DEFE 71 (subject to TNA agreement).

With regard to your comments about the documents supplied from D/DPR(RAF)326 and a future request for UFO Policy files (D/Sec(AS)64/1 Parts A-E) in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you may wish to be aware that the charging regulations under the FOIA have been laid before Parliament, but have yet to be ratified. They are however, likely to be significantly different to the arrangements under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. When you make this request we will, of course, inform you of any fees that would apply under the FOIA before proceeding with your request. In the meantime I can tell you that it is proposed to have an upper limit to the amount of work a Department can expend on an individual request (even if the applicant is willing to pay the costs). In the next few weeks you may, therefore, wish to give some thought as to what specific information you are seeking from these files as the costs of supplying whole files is likely to be greater than if particular information or documents are extracted and could result in your request exceeding the upper limit.

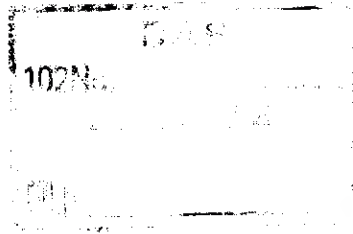
Finally, you asked about the release of enclosures 95 and 96 from D/AIR DEF/111/6/4 Part F. We continue to pursue this with the US authorities who have assured us that we can expect an official decision by the 25 February 2005 at the latest. I apologise for the length of time it is taking to consider the release of these documents and appreciate your patience regarding this matter.

I hope this is helpful and wish you a very happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40





**Dr David Clarke**

**Section 40**

**Section 40**

**Directorate of Air Staff - FOIA  
Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB**

23 November 2004

Dear **Section 40**

Many thanks for your letter of 13 October and for the material you enclosed. The additional background information supplements the verbal answers to the questions **Section 40** and I provided in advance of our meeting on 1 October. Together they provide a comprehensive account of the meeting and as such are useful for research purposes.

In return I enclose a copy of the notes I prepared afterwards, for your information. I would be grateful if you could check these and inform me of any errors that may have arisen from my shorthand notes of what was said.

As you will see there are a small number of items marked with an asterisk which I felt required further clarification. I have itemized these below:

QA (1) pg 1: Number of staff employed in DAS. My notes refer to two sections. Could you explain the responsibilities and staffing of these?

QB (6) pg 5: Paragraphs from pg 2 of the Flying Saucer Working Party report of 1951 (DEFE 44/119) withheld under Section 3(4) of Public Records Act. Has any progress been made on the release of this?

QD (2) pg 7: **Section 40** photograph. What conclusion has MoD reached concerning the nature of the image following the extensive analysis you have carried out? *- Sec D/DAS/bu/s  
Part AC-Enc 7*

QD (5) pg 8: You mentioned during our meeting that the numbers of UFO reports increased following the release of the crop circle film 'Signs.' This raises the question of MoD interest in crop circles. Is DAS responsible for answering questions on this subject? I understand that Nick Pope opened a file on this topic whilst in post at Sec(AS)2a circa 1991-2. Could you supply the reference and title of this file and any others referring to crop circles held in MoD archives?

Secondly, I refer to my email of 7 October where I mentioned a number of discrepancies in the list of UFO related files awaiting transfer to TNA (Annex A, provided on 1 October). Having scrutinised this document I have noticed that it contains a number of UFO-related files that do not appear on the list you supplied on 28 July 2003 (your ref D/DAS/64/3/11). Specifically I note the following :

Annex A, Pg1

- a) referring to the table at the top of the page. Is it possible to supply a list of the files due to be released in 2006 (13), 2007 (13), 2008 (11) and 2009 (6).
- b) File refs AF/BJ84/76 (Sir John Langford-Holt) and AF/BY76/76 (Dr Coleman) are dated 1976 and yet do not appear on the TNA catalogue. Is there a reason why they remain 'in transit' given their dates ?
- c) The file listed as DEFE 24/1291 (former Ref D/DS8/75/2/3D) appears on your original list (28 July 2003) and on the TNA catalogue as DEFE 24/1208. Which piece number is the correct one ?

Annexe A, Pg 2

- a) The seven files beginning with D/DS8/75/2/3C (1977) listed as TBA and 'not yet transferred' appear to have been transferred to TNA, possibly since this annex was compiled. I have identified them on the TNA catalogue as DEFE 24/1205-7 and DEFE 24/1209-1212. Could you confirm these are the same files? I intend to apply to TNA for access to these and DEFE 24/1291 (or DEFE 24/1208 ?) under the FOIA in January.
- b) Five 'Defence Intelligence' files (DEFE 31/177-181) appear to form part of the DI 55 archive but these five do not appear on the list you supplied on 28 July, 2003. I understood all these files (except for one, the 1993 Cosford incident) were contaminated by asbestos. On Annex A they are shown as "not yet transferred to TNA". Could you confirm these files are not among those listed as contaminated ? Does this mean they are accessible under FOIA ?

Annexe A, Pg 3

'Missing files'. Please could you notify me as and when any of these missing files are located and allocated TNA references.

Thankyou for enclosing the copies of the documents from D/DPR(RAF)326 Part A which were outstanding from my earlier request. These are probably some of the most interesting and informative documents I have seen during my research into this subject. They contain references to a number of other 'policy' documents that presumably form part of the Sec(AS) 'UFO Policy files' for 1995-2000 (D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pts A-E). In your letter of 23 December 2003 you provided a quote for copying these five files under the Code of Practice for Access to Government Information. I intend to apply for them using the FOIA procedure in the new year.

Finally, I note that you are continuing to pursue the release of enclosures 95 and 96 from D/AIR DEF/111/6/4 Part F (part of my earlier request) and I look forward to receiving these in due course.



In the meantime I wish to thank you and **Section 40** for your help and assistance during the course of the year, and wish you both a happy Christmas holiday.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**





**Minutes of meeting at MoD Main Building, 1 October 2004**

**Section 40** Assistant Director (Secretariat & Lower Airspace), Directorate of Air Staff.

**Section 40** Executive Officer, DAS.

DC: Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**

Replies marked with \* asterisk denote areas requiring clarification

**A) MOD policy and 'Unidentified Flying Objects'**

**1. Which documents/briefings form the basis for current policy? What is the earliest dated document currently used as the basis for policy?**

- ✓ Much general discussion on policy & staffing.
- ✓ Policy has evolved over the years. Earliest policy held at Main Building dates from 1995, based on a document dated 1985 held in the archives. Everything prior to 95 sent to archives.
- ✓ **Section 40** she has material dating back only to 95 on file at her workplace.
- ✓ There have been periodical reviews of policy – usually as a result of specific incidents, media & parliamentary interest. Each new incident/PQ etc has added to existing policy which has evolved.
- ✓ Ultimately original policy could have been based on conclusions of 1951 Working Party report (?), although DC believes more likely it can be traced to the 1955 Air Ministry report referred to by Patrick Wall MP (see Question B8).
- ✓ Current policy is also determined to some extent by the attitude taken by individuals in post at any given time. Each postholder different: some more interested in the subject than others. **Section 40** aware that job involved UFO duties when she applied for it.
- ✓ No fixed term in role, desk staff move on to further their career when appropriate for the individual. Typically 2-4 years.
- ✓ **Section 40** has worked at MoD 22 years and has been in current post since March this year (2004). DAS has (38)? staff in two sections? *Summary*
- ✓ **Section 40** her job now divided between UFO duties and FOIA. She has an administrative assistant to help deal with workload.
- Of UFO duties this involved approximately less than 50 percent of her time. Typically duties were:
  - a) dealing with incoming reports (number has decreased), see answer to Question D5.
  - b) Parliamentary questions (none in recent years?) :
  - c) answering UFO correspondence and providing information for members of the public/media.
- ✓ **Section 40** asked about the numbers and identities of 'frequent correspondents' on the subject of UFOs. **Section 40** these were very few, possibly less than 10 individuals. The main correspondents in recent years were DC and **Section 40** – they were the only ones who were persistent over a long period. Others (especially overseas inquirers) came and went.

**2. Outline of working relationship of the departments/branches responsible for dealing with UFO matters the process whereby MOD receives and investigates reports.**

- ✓ DAS can call upon other branches for technical assistance as and when required.

**3. What factors lay behind DIST decision of October 2000 that they are not interested in receiving reports?**

- ✓ Section 40 historically there had been little reason for DIST to be routinely involved. They decided in 2000 that after 50 years nothing of interest had been found in UFO reports and subject was a waste of their time.

DC said that TNA documents from 1967 show that DIST took the same line at that time: i.e. that nothing of intelligence value had been found in UFO reports, and the subject was of low priority. Why then did they continue receiving reports until 2000?

- Section 40 appeared unaware this was the case, but not surprised.

It was added that if any case arose that was considered of interest, of course DIST would look at it.

**4. How far are current DAS personnel aware of the past involvement of the Ministry in UFO matters....**

- ✓ Minimal historical awareness based mainly on what previous post-holder had provided. See answer to Question A1 with reference to policy.

**5. Would it be possible to contact previous incumbents of S4(Air), DS8 etc for interviews as part of this study?**

- ✓ This was not possible directly via MoD. Possibility of forwarding letters via Civil Service pension managers raised by Section 40. Section 40 appeared unaware this was possible. DC said he had used RAF personnel agency to contact former service personnel who had served on UFO desk at Whitehall in '50s and '60s. Letters are forwarded to them by PMA and decision on reply left to the recipient. DC said vast majority (90%) had been happy to write back and describe what they remembered about the job.

**6. Reasons why MOD are reluctant to take part in public discussion of UFO matters or to provide a "spokesperson" for media?**

- ✓ Previous experience of being misrepresented by UFOlogy and the media. Whatever MoD say it will not convince those who are determined to believe in a conspiracy. 'People will continue to believe what they want to believe.'  
Publicity seen as counter-productive: results in an overload of additional inquiries and adds to workload. Media interest generates more reports.
- 2 \*Civil servants have their own opinion - Section 40 had his own opinion on the subject of UFOs, but did not elaborate.

- ✓ However, civil servants responsible to ministers and have to follow agreed MoD line; care needed not to cause difficulties for ministers, i.e. by giving on the record interviews that could be misrepresented.

Individual RAF stations can handle specific UFO queries via station Press Officers. DC pointed out that in 1972 Air Commodore Tony Davis, then head of S4 (Air) MoD had appeared on a live BBC TV programme ('Man Alive') to discuss UFO policy; again in 1979, **Section 40** then Assistant Secretary in 'the Air Force Department of the MoD' (S4 Air) appeared on an ITV programme. DC made the point that on both occasions the MoD position was presented clearly and did not appear to have been misrepresented. DC asked if there had been a change of policy since 1979?

**Section 40** and **Section 40** appeared unaware of these examples.

- ✓ **Section 40** asked if staff had received media training and **Section 40** had, but that policy was that Press Officers dealt with inquiries as opposed to DAS staff (?)

#### **7. MOD Publication Scheme and UFOs: what factors led Ministry to accept there was a "public interest" in the subject and how they intend to address this.**

- ✓ MoD has limited interest in UFOs. Defence significance only. DC queried if 'defence significance' was restricted to identification of intruder aircraft, and **Section 40** confirmed this was the case. Once satisfied a sighting is not a defence threat = end of interest.
- ✓ Public interest self evident in terms of numbers of inquiries received over the years, particularly about Rendlesham file.
- ? 'Public interest' led to Freedom of Information legislation. All ministries asked by Government to look at what information could be made available from 2005. UFOs identified as one category of material that could be released, hence creation of UFO category in Publication Scheme.

#### **8. What is the MOD's view of former incumbents of the 'UFO Desk' giving media interviews.....**

DC asked what view MoD took of Pope expressing opinions publicly that contradicted the MoD's policy on UFOs – particularly given the fact that he is often portrayed in the context of an official "MoD spokesman."

- ✓ **Section 40** replied that Pope cannot be held responsible for how the media present him. He is entitled to his opinions, so long as they don't interfere with his current role.

#### **9. Nick Pope frequently refers to his time at the UFO Desk as being part of 'The Project'. Was this term ever used for MOD UFO investigations, formally or informally?**

- ✓ Current staff have never heard of it referred to as 'the project.'

#### **10. Does the role that Nick Pope occupied still exist? Is there an unclassified role description of that post available?**

Yes but no job description available. None of the posts have a specific written job description (?) that could be made available.

- ✓ **Section 40** said that post duties evolve and hers included mainly UFO and FOIA duties – therefore job specification had changed since 1994 when Pope left the post. For instance, inquiries relating to low flying aircraft – now has a dedicated section dealing with that issue.

**11. Why in 1995 did Sec(AS)2a **Section 40** inform a member of the public that RAF Rudloe Manor/P&SS/Flying Complaints Flight acted as “a co-ordination point” for UFO reports received by the RAF prior to 1992? Why had this matter been previously denied by previous incumbents of Sec(AS)2a?**

- ✓ **Section 40** statement was correct. Prior to 1992 UFO reports made by RAF personnel and/or reports from public made directly to local RAF stations went first to Rudloe Manor which acted as a collection point. But no action was taken to investigate them at Rudloe – they were simply forwarded to MoD in London for action. Rudloe is HQ for Provost & Security Service, RAF Police. This fact has led to perception that they must have been involved in some form of secret UFO investigation or study. This is not correct.

- ? **Section 40** suggested that MoD had misled MP [Martin Redmond] in a PQ on the role of Rudloe?? **Section 40** said Redmond was told Rudloe and PS&S had never had a role in UFO matters **Section 40** this as a case of a misunderstanding, a “cock up rather than cover-up.”

## B. FOIA and archive material:

**1. The future of Defence Intelligence files subject to asbestos contamination – what other subject areas are affected?**

- ✓ No decision made so far on future of files, but MoD recognises they are important historical documents **Section 40** point that cost of preserving them would be worthwhile given the funds spent on dispelling the notion of a ‘cover-up’ if they were destroyed. Files are now bagged up at Feltham and awaiting decision. Project team has been set up to consider the next step – no date set for this. The contaminated files include: a) defence intelligence section b) air historical branch records and c) departmental records officer MoD.

**2. Future preservation of UFO files and destruction of files – possibility of storage in electronic formats**

- ? This was something they would look at in future?

**3. How applications for access to UFO files held by MoD and MoD archives will proceed after January 2005 under FOIA**



2. MoD only responsible for operational files, i.e. those held in Main Building. Files which have entered the archival process are responsibility of Records Management and TNA. When files reach Kew they are responsibility of TNA who decide when they should be 'opened' to public.

**4. Status and titles of files currently in process of transfer from MOD to TNA – possible dates of transfer etc**

2. A number of files currently in transit between MOD Archives and TNA – Section 40 DC with a list of those currently due for transfer to TNA. Section 40 asked for electronic copy of this.

**5. Issue of payment for processing of files subsequently made available via MOD Publication Scheme.**

✓ Policy on level of charges under FOIA not yet finalised. Section 40 because we had ordered specific files did not mean these would then be placed on Publication Scheme. Therefore, if we wanted files in advance they would have to be paid for under charging scale. MoD decided which files placed on scheme.

**6. Status of air intelligence and scientific intelligence files currently with-held under Section 3(4) of Public Record Act in context of FOIA.**

The question related to the 250-300 files or extracts from files covering TNA classes AIR 40 (Air Intelligence), DEFE 19 and DEFE 44 (Scientific Intelligence) currently with-held for more than 30 years.

Will these continue to be with-held? When will they next be reviewed? Is it possible to apply for access to them (or to redacted versions of them) under FOIA?

\*In case of missing section from Flying Saucer Working Party report – this was almost resolved. Permission required from foreign (?) Government.

**7. Possible location of pre-1962 UFO records: the issue of “missing files” that are actually misplaced within other files with titles that do not reflect their UFO content.**

✓ Much discussion around Working Party report and possible survival of other 1950s material. It was acknowledged that other material could have been mis-filed in records whose titles did not reflect their UFO content. Section 40 under the law all with-held files have to be reviewed at set intervals & reviewers would be on the look-out for UFO material.

**8. Missing Records: The possible file location of the 1955 report on “Flying Saucers” by DDI (Tech) to ACAS (I) referred to in Parliamentary papers of Major Sir Patrick Wall held at Hull University? [copy attached, Attachment A].**

Much the same answer as (B7) above. DC made the point that the Patrick Wall MP Parliamentary Question was only example found during research that suggested the MoD (then Air Ministry) had been misleading in their reply, to the effect that there had been no study of the flying saucer problem, when there had been (Working Party report).

✓ **Section 40** this was more likely to have been the result of a misunderstanding, or one part of the Government not being aware of the work done by another.

DC said he was interested in 1955 report because he believed it was the basis of MoD's current policy **Section 40** so he expected to have seen a copy around the office!

### C. Radar systems and detections of 'UFOs'

#### **1. Is it not a matter for concern that radar systems are contrived to ignore returns outside the parameters of known aircraft technology?**

It was suggested this was a technical matter for staff responsible for radar/air defence.

✓ However, **Section 40** noted that attention was heightened following 9/11.

**Section 40** questioned ability of air defence radar to detect balloons that could be used by terrorists or enemy nations – ie in the Japanese balloon bombs launched against USA in 1944-45. This point was made in the context of radar displays which operate on software designed to look for returns that behave like aircraft.

**Section 40** said he was confident that UK air defence system was capable of detecting any intruders including balloons.

#### **2. Does MOD maintain separate records of unidentified radar incidents and which department performs analysis of these?**

No separate records kept. Radar tapes retained by 30 days in case they are needed for investigation (i.e. in aircraft nearmiss), then wiped clean. *reused.*

#### **3. Given ambiguous nature of unidentified radar incidents from 1950s why were detailed records from this period destroyed?**

✓ **Section 40** that radar systems much more sophisticated now than in 50s. Agreed with DC that some early 50s radar UFOs may have been result of problems in development of radar now ironed out.

#### **4. How many such incidents on record in recent years & what action taken?**

✓ DAS not necessarily informed, up to local commander to decide if a report should go to MoD?

#### D. UFO incidents:

**1. Rendlesham Forest incident: a) what specific factors led to release of the file; b) to whom was it first released; c) when will the original file be available for scrutiny at TNA?**

- ✓ a) Great interest in Rendlesham incident – but since release into Publication Scheme the number of inquiries about it have fallen off;
- ✓ b) **Section 40** confirmed that case file was first released to DC in 2001 following his request under Code of Practice.
- ? c) Not decided – move to TNA seen as too early at this stage. Has to be reviewed?

**2. Photographic cases: what (if any) criteria do they apply to decide whether or not they should examine a photo?**

No fixed criteria, very unusual that they take an interest.

- Section 40** photograph: they took an interest due to “great deal of trouble” on the part of **Section 40** who had persuaded various experts at Kodak etc to look at his negatives etc.
- Section 40** MoD thought it would do no harm to have their image analysts look at the photos. They had not reached any definite conclusion as to what the image showed (?)
- ? However, wary that anything they said or did could be construed wrongly.

**3. Reports by Civil Aviation pilots: how many in recent years and what procedures are followed to investigate these.**

- ? CAA sightings all channelled directly to MoD for scrutiny. ✓ Question of how many received in recent years not known (separate records not kept).

**4. Reports by Air Force & other personnel: how many in recent years?**

- ✓ No separate figures. Received and dealt with in same manner as reports from members of the public.

**5. Total numbers and most likely explanation for UFO reports received within last three years.**

- ✓ Numbers of reports have diminished in recent years.
- ✓ Most inquiries vague and refer to sightings in the past. Specific figures quoted: 2001 (203), 2002 (100), 2003 (99) and up to date in October 2004 (68).
- ✓ Most reports are just ‘lights in the sky’ too vague for them to investigate or reach a conclusion. They do not have the resources to identify these. They do not provide an identification service.
- ? Amount of time spent on investigating UFO reports: difficult to say but possibly around 3 hours **Section 40** figure from 1979 House of Lords debate.
- ✓ MoD do not visit witnesses and do not appear to be aware that witnesses have been visited and interviewed in the past (circa 1967-68).

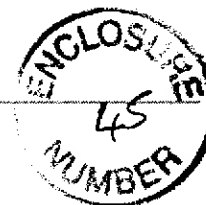
✓ \*Rise and fall in the numbers of reports seems to be related to media interest, newspaper stories and films such as 'Signs' which generated a number of questions to MoD about crop circle phenomenon.

**D.Clarke**

**9 October 2004**

**revised 22 November 2004**

Section 40



**From:** Section 40 Wg Cdr  
**Sent:** 14 December 2004 13:09  
**To:** Section 40 @mod.uk)  
**Subject:** US Enclosures  
**Importance:** High

Section 40

I have heard back from the US Air Attaché, Colonel Section 40 and he has asked for an extension to the deadline due to the Christmas Grant and New Year holiday. He has informed me that we will have an official decision from the US authorities by 25 Feb 05 at the latest.

Hope Dr Clarke will allow us this dispensation and I do feel confident that we will have an answer from the Embassy by end-Feb.

Section 40

SO1 Airspace Integrity  
DCT&UK Ops

Section 40  
Internet account: Section 40 @mod.uk

16/12/2004



Loose Minute

DG-Info4

15 December 2004

DAS - Section 40

## DAVID CLARKE ENQUIRY - 23 NOVEMBER 2004: Records issues

1. You left me a copy of Dr Clarke's letter dated 23 November 2004 as he had raised number of records issues that required clarification.

2. My comments:

	<i>Query</i>	<i>Response</i>
QB(6)pg5	Paragraphs from pg 2 of the Flying Sauce Working Party report of 1951 (DEFE 44/119) withheld under S3(4) of PRA. Has any progress been made on the release of this?	No progress.  Not for Dr Clarke - we plan to hasten the US authorities for a reply.
Annex A Pg1	<p>a) Is possible to supply a list of the files due for release in 2006(13), 2007 (13), 2008 (11) and 2009 (6).</p> <p>b) File refs AF/BJ84/76 (Sir John Langford-Holt) and AF/BY76/76 (Dr Coleman) are dated 1976 and yet do not appear on the TNA catalogue. Is there any reason why they remain "in transit" given their dates?</p> <p>c) The file listed as DEFE 24/1291 (former ref D/DS8/75/2/3D) appears on your original list (28 July 2003) and on the TNA catalogue as DEFE 24/1208. Which piece number is the correct one?</p>	<p>An updated list located at Annex A.</p> <p>Note footnote No 1.</p> <p>The preparation of file for transfer can take a considerable period of time. Following selection at review, there is cleaning (repairing the file from the ravage of time to The National archives standards), draft cataloguing, clearance by TNA staff and then the decision by Kew to accept (collect the file).</p> <p>They both apparently have identical former references.</p> <p>Not for Dr Clarke: DEFE 24/1208 is already at TNA so cannot be checked</p>

		by MOD staff, but as both have identical former refs I suspect that when files originally raised an error occurred in DS8. 1208 believed to be unedited reports.
Annex Pg 2	<p>a) The seven files beginning with D/DS8/75/2/3C (1977) listed as TBA and "not yet transferred" appear to have been transferred to TNA, possibly since this annex was compiled. I have identified them on the TNA catalogue as DEFE 24/1205-7 and DEFE 24/1209-1212. Could you confirm that these are the same file?</p> <p>b) Five "Defence Intelligence" files (DEFE 31/177-181) appear to form part of the DI 55 archive but these five do not appear on the list you supplied on 28 July 2003. I understand that all these files (except one, the 1993 Cosford incident) were contaminated by asbestos. On Annex A they are shown as "not yet transferred to TNA". Could you confirm that these files are not those listed as contaminated? Does this mean that they are accessible under FOIA?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>These have been re-catalogued as DEFE 31/163 to 167. All five are at TNA.</p>
Annex A Pg 3	"Missing Files". Notify me as and when any of these missing files are located and allocated TNA references.	Four of the five file have now turned up and are awaiting assignment to DEFE 71 (subject to TNA agreement).

Section 40

Info-CMemR

Section 40

# UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS – FILES IDENTIFIED AS PRESERVED IN/FOR THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RELEASE DATES<sup>1</sup> – AS AT 15 DECEMBER 2004

Already open		108
To be released		
2005	13	
2006	9	
2007	13	
2008	10	
2009	10	
2010	5	
To Be Allocated TNA references	34	
Held at Feltham <sup>2</sup>	1	
Retained <sup>3</sup>	1	
Total carried over		96
Total identified (released/unreleased)		204

AIR 2 – AIR MINISTRY and MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: REGISTERED FILES			
16918	1961–63	UFO's: sightings, reports by members of the public (FILE ORIGINALLY RELEASED IN A SANITISED FORM. EXTRACTS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED).	AF/X59/64 Pt 5
17318	1963	Ditto (FILE ORIGINALLY RELEASED IN A SANITISED FORM. EXTRACTS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED).	AF/X59/64 Pt 6
17528	1964	Ditto (FILE ORIGINALLY RELEASED IN A SANITISED FORM. EXTRACTS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED).	AF/X59/64 Pt 7
17527	1965	Ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 7
17982	1965–66	Ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 9
17983	1966	Ditto (17527, 17982 & 17983 OPEN – RELEASED 1997).	AF/X59/64 Pt 10
17984	1966–67	Ditto	AF/X59/64 Pt 11
18115	1967	Unidentified flying objects: reports	AF/CX38/67 Pt 1
18116	1967	Ditto (17984, 18115 & 18116 OPEN – RELEASED 1998).	AF/X38/67 Pt 2
18117	1967–68	Ditto (OPEN – RELEASED 1999).	AF/CX38/67 Pt 3

<sup>1</sup> This list is an ad hoc record of Ministry of Defence files relating to the ufo phenomena preserved, or selected for preservation, at The National Archives. It is not a definitive record of files on this subject of files preserved at TNA. The inclusion of a file on this list or TNA catalogue does not ensure its availability at Kew.

<sup>2</sup> One file, although prepared for TNA, affected by contamination of the OWOB basement has been isolated and relocated to a secure store.

<sup>3</sup> Although DEFE 19/9 is retained the DSI/JSTI Report NO 7 has been extracted (and replaced with a copy) and released as DEFE 44/119.

18183	1968-69	Unidentified flying objects (OPEN - RELEASED 2000).	AF/7463/72 Pt 2
18564	1957-71	UFO Reports: West Freugh 1957	AF/CX1295/72
18565	1970-71	UFO Reports (18564 & 18565 OPEN - RELEASED 2002).	AF/7463/72 Pt 3
18872	1972-73	UFO Reports (RELEASED 2004).	AF/7464/72 Pt I
18873	1973-74	UFO reports (DUE FOR RELEASE 2005).	AF/7464/72 Pt II
18874	1974-75	UFO reports (DUE FOR RELEASE 2006).	AF/7464/72 Pt III
18920	1975-76	UFO reports	AF/7464/72 Pt IV
18921	1976	Ditto (18920 & 18921 DUE FOR RELEASE 2007).	AF/7464/72 Pt V
18949	1975 Aug 01 - 1976 Jun 30	UFO reports: edited (DUE FOR RELEASE 2007).	AF/447
18950	1974 Feb 01 - 1974 Feb 28	UFO reports	AF/585
18951	1974 Mar 01 - 1974 Mar 31	Ditto	AF/586
18952	1974 Apr 01 - 1974 Apr 30	Ditto	AF/587
18953	1974 May 01 - 1974 May 31	Ditto	AF/588
18954	1974 Jun 01 - 1974 Jun 30	Ditto	AF/589
18955	1974 Jul 01 - 1974 Jul 31	Ditto	AF/590
18956	1974 Aug 01 - 1974 Aug 31	Ditto	AF/591
18957	1974 Sep 01 - 1974 Sep 30	Ditto	AF/592
18958	1974 Oct 01 - 1974 Oct 31	Ditto	AF/593
18959	1974 Nov 01 - 1974 Nov 30	Ditto	AF/594
18960	1974 Dec 01 - 1974 Dec 31	Ditto (1890 - 1896 DUE FOR RELEASE 2005)	AF/595
18961	1975 Jan 01 - 1975 Jan 31	Ditto	AF/596
18962	1975 Feb 01 - 1975 Feb 28	Ditto	AF/597
18963	1975 Mar 01 - 1975 Mar 31	Ditto	AF/598
18964	1975 Apr 01 - 1975 Apr 30	Ditto	AF/599
18965	1975 May 01 - 1975 May 31	Ditto	AF/600
18966	1975 Jun 01 - 1975 Jun 30	Ditto	AF/601
18967	1975 Jul 01 - 1975 Jul 31	Ditto	AF/602

18968	1975 Dec 01 - 1975 Dec 31	Ditto (18961 - 18968 DUE FOR RELEASE 2006).	AF/607
18969	1976 Jan 01 - 1976 Jan 31	Ditto	AF/608
18970	1976 Feb 01 - 1976 Feb 31	Ditto	AF/609
18971	1976 Mar 01 - 1976 Mar 28	Ditto	AF/610
18972	1976 Apr 01 - 1976 Apr 31	Ditto	AF/611
18973	1976 May 01 - 1976 May 30	Ditto	AF/612
18974	1976 Jun 01 - 1976 Jun 31	Ditto	AF/613
18975	1976 Sep 01 - 1976 Sep 30	Ditto	AF/616
18976	1976 Oct 01 - 1976 Oct 31	Ditto	AF/617
18977	1976 Nov 01 - 1976 Nov 30	Ditto	AF/618
18978	1976 Dec 01 - 1976 Dec 31	Ditto (18969 - 18978 DUE FOR RELEASE 2007)	AF/619
19083	1974 Jan 01 - 1974 Feb 28	Ditto (DUE FOR RELEASE 2005)	AF/584
19086	1970 May 01 - 1971 Aug 31	UFO policy and policy statements (OPEN - RELEASED 2002).	AF/3459//75
19125	1967-73	Reported sightings of UFOs (RELEASED 2004)	PAT(OPS)/3/11/AIR Pt 1
19126	1967-1973	Statistical analysis of UFOs	S4f(Air)U/506
19117	1972-1973	UFOs: BBC Radio Oxford programme (19126 & 12127 RELEASED 2004)	AF/S4F(Air)422
19119	1971-1972	UFOs: Man Alive programme BBC2 (RELEASED 2003)	AF/419
19173	Sept 1970	Aircraft Accident Report: Lightning F6 XS894, 5 Squadron	
AIR 2/19192 last piece transferred to TNA in July 2004			
AIR 14 AIR MINISTRY: BOMBER COMMAND: REGISTERED FILES			
2800	1943	No 115 Squadron: news sheet "Bang On" No 1 (OPEN - RELEASED 1972).	
AIR 14/4590 last piece transferred to TNA in may 2004			
AIR 16 AIR MINISTRY: FIGHTER COMMAND: REGISTERED FILES			
1199	1952 Sep	Flying saucers: occurrence reports: service personnel at Topcliffe station, Thirsk and local public sector	IIH1/188/1/17 Top/C16/Air



		(OPEN).	
AIR 16/1482 last piece transferred to TNA in August 1999			
AIR 20 AIR MINISTRY, and MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: AIR HISTORICAL BRANCH: UNREGISTERED PAPERS			
7390	1950-54	Unidentified aircraft (flying objects): reports	II/127/3/48
9320	1957	Parliamentary questions on UFOs	MR 008614/193
9321	1957	Ditto	MR 008614/213
9322	1957	Ditto	MR 008614/220
9994	1953-57	Ditto (7390, 9320-9322 & 9994 OPEN).	IIH/273/10/4
11612	1967-68	Unidentified flying objects	MR 073414
11694	1968 Jan	Ditto	ID48/69 AF/S4f(Air)512
11695	1968 Feb	Ditto	ID48/70 AF/S4f(Air)513
11696	1968 Dec	Ditto (11612, 11694-11696 OPEN - RELEASED 1999).	ID48/80 AF/S4f(Air)523
11887	1967 Aug	Ditto	ID48/44 AF/S4f(Air)507
11888	1967 Sep	Ditto	ID48/45 AF/S4f(Air)508
11889	1967 Oct	Ditto	ID48/46 Pt 1 AF/S4f(Air)509
11890	1967 Oct	Ditto	ID48/46 Pt 2 AF/S4f(Air)509
11891	1967 Nov	Ditto	ID48/67 Pt 1 AF/S4f(Air)510
11892	1967 Nov	Ditto	ID48/67 Pt 2 AF/S4f(Air)510
11893	1967 Dec	Ditto (11887 - 11893 OPEN - RELEASED 1998).	ID48/68 AF/S4f(Air)511
11894	1968 Mar	Ditto	ID48/71 AF/S4f(Air)514
11895	1968 Apr	Ditto	ID/48/72 AF/S4f(Air)515
11896	1968 May	Ditto	ID/48/73 AF/S4f(Air)516
11897	1968 Jun	Ditto	ID/48/74 AF/S4f(Air)517
11898	1968 Jul	Ditto	ID/48/75 AF/S4f(Air)518
11899	1968 Aug	Ditto	ID/48/76 AF/S4f(Air)519
11900	1968 Sep	Ditto	ID/48/77 AF/S4f(Air)520
11901	1968 Oct	Ditto	ID/48/78 AF/S4f(Air)521
11902	1968 Nov	Ditto	ID/48/79

		(11894 - 11902 OPEN - RELEASED 1999)	AF/S4f(Air)522
12055	1969 Jan	Ditto	ID/48/81 AF/S4f(Air)524
12056	1969 Feb	Ditto	ID/48/82 AF/S4f(Air)525
12057	1969 Mar	Ditto	ID/48/83 AF/S4f(Air)526
12058	1969 Apr	Ditto	ID/48/84 AF/S4f(Air)527
12059	1969 May	Ditto	ID/48/85 AF/S4f(Air)528
12060	1969 Jun	Ditto	ID/48/86 AF/S4f(Air)529
12061	1969 Jul	Ditto	ID/48/87 AF/S4f(Air)530
12062	1969 Aug	Ditto	ID/48/88 AF/S4f(Air)531
12063	1969 Sep	Ditto	ID/48/89 AF/S4f(Air)532
12064	1969 Oct	Ditto	ID/48/90 AF/S4f(Air)533
12065	1969 Nov	Ditto	ID/48/91 AF/S4f(Air)534
12066	1969 Dec	Ditto (12055 - 12066 OPEN - RELEASED 2000)	ID/48/92 AF/S4f(Air)535
12067	1970 Jan	Ditto	ID/48/93 AF/S4f(Air)536
12297	1970 Feb	Ditto	ID/48/94 AF/S4f(Air)537
12298	1970 Mar	Ditto	ID/48/95 AF/S4f(Air)538
12299	1970 Apr	Ditto	ID/48/96 AF/S4f(Air)539
12300	1970 May	Ditto	ID/48/97 AF/S4f(Air)540
12301	1970 Jun	Ditto	ID/48/98 AF/S4f(Air)541
12302	1970 Jul	Ditto	ID/48/99 AF/S4f(Air)542
12303	1970 Aug	Ditto	ID/48/100 AF/S4f(Air)543
12304	1970 Sep	Ditto	ID/48/101 AF/S4f(Air)544
12305	1970 Oct	Ditto	ID/48/102 AF/S4f(Air)545
12306	1970 Nov	Ditto (12067, 12297 - 12306 OPEN - RELEASED 2001).	ID/48/103 AF/S4f(Air)546
12399	1971-72	UFO reports	ID/47/274 Pt 4
12400	1972 Jan	Ditto	ID/48/117
12401	1972 Feb	Ditto	ID/48/118
12402	1972 Mar	Ditto	ID/48/119
12403	1972 Apr	Ditto	ID/49/120

12404	1972 May	Ditto	ID/48/121
12405	1972 Jun	Ditto	ID/48/122
12406	1972 Jul	Ditto	ID/48/123
12407	1972 Aug	Ditto	ID/48/124
12408	1972 Sep	Ditto	ID/48/125
12409	1972 Oct	Ditto	ID/48/126
12410	1972 Nov	Ditto	ID/48/127
12411	1972 Dec	Ditto (12399 - 12411 RELEASED 2003)	ID/48/128
12544	1973 Jan	Ditto	ID/48/129
12545	1973 Feb	Ditto	ID/48/130
12546	1973 Mar	Ditto	ID/48/131
12547	1973 Apr	Ditto	ID/48/132
12548	1973 May	Ditto	ID/48/133
12549	1973 Jun	Ditto	ID/48/134
12550	1973 Jul	Ditto	ID/48/135
12551	1973 Aug	Ditto	ID/48/136
12552	1973 Sep	Ditto	ID/48/137
12553	1973 Oct	Ditto	ID/48/138
12554	1973 Nov	Ditto	ID/48/139
12555	1973 Dec	Ditto (12544 - 12555 RELEASED 2004)	ID/48/140
TBA	Sep 1978 - Jan 1979	Unidentified Flying Objects	Hd 54(Air)/BF82
AIR 20/13011 last piece transferred to TNA in May 2004			
AIR 22 PERIODICAL RETURNS, SUMMARIES AND BULLETINIS			
93	1955	Air Ministry Secret Summary. Vol 10. No 3 Article on Flying Saucers (OPEN - RELEASED 1986)	IIG/101
AIR 22/549 last piece transferred to TNA in March 2003			
BJ 5 METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS			
311	1968-70	UFO: Met aspects (OPEN 2001)	AF/M 396/68
BJ 5/326 last piece transferred to TNA in July 2003			
DEFE 10 DIRECTORATE OF SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE AND JOINT TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE			
496	1950 Apr - 1951 Dec	Minutes of Meetings	----- ---
497	1952 Jan - 1954 Oct	Ditto (496 & 497 OPEN - RELEASED 1998)	----- ----
DEFE 10/978 last piece			

number transferred to TNA, date not currently available.			
<b>DEFE 13 Private Office Papers</b>			
1184	1977	Richard Luce MP: J Glover – UFOs <b>(ALTHOUGH PREPARED FOR TNA FILE HAS BEEN ISOLATED DUE TO ITS STORAGE WITH FILES PREVIOUSLY LOCATED IN OWO)</b>	AF/JW562/77 MR/12554
TBA	1976	Sir John Langford-Holt MO M J Hessessy – UFO Enquiry	AF/BJ84/76
TBA	1976	Dr Coleman JP Mr R J Whitrow – UFO Enquiry	AF/BY76/76
<b>DEFE 13/1080 last piece transferred to TNA in July 2003</b>			
<b>DEFE 19 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: CENTRAL DEFENCE SCIENTIFIC STAFF and predecessors: REGISTERED FILES (CSA, AE 1 and A SERIES) and PAPERS</b>			
9	1948 – 1960	Scientific intelligence. <b>(REMAINS CLOSED BUT INCLUDES DSI/JTIC REPORT NO 7 ON UFO STUDY. REPORT EXTRACTED AND RELEASED IN DEFE 44)</b>	CSA/ALPH/51
<b>DEFE 19/238 last piece number transferred to TNA in September 2004</b>			
<b>DEFE 24 Defence Secretariat: Registered Files (DS Series)</b>			
977	Jul 76 – Apr 77	UFO Reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2A
978	Apr – Sep 77	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/2B
979	Sep – Dec 77	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/2C
1205	Oct-Dec 77	UFO Reports	D/DS8/2/3C
1206	1977	Reports and correspondence <b>(977 – 1206 due for release 2008)</b>	D/DS8/8/75/2/1B
1207	Oct 77 – Mar 78	Reports and correspondence	D/DS8/75/2/1C
1208	Jan – Mar 78	Ditto (Note: identical former file reference to piece 1291; except 1208 contains unedited reports whereas 1290 holds edited reports).	D/DS8/75/2/3D
1209	Apr – May 78	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3E
1210	Jun – Aug 78	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3F
1211	Nov 78	Ditto	D/DS75/2/3H
1212	Dec 78	Ditto <b>(1207 – 1212 due for release 2009)</b>	D/DS8/75/2/3J
1288	Apr – Aug 78	UFO Reports edited copies	D/DS8/75/2/2E
1289	Aug – Oct 78	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/2F
1290	Jan-Mar 78	Ditto (Note: identical former file reference to piece 1208; except that 1290 contains edited reports whereas 1208 does not)	D/DS8/75/2/3D
1291	Sep – Oct 78	Reports and correspondence <b>(1288, 1289 + 1291 due for release 2009)</b>	D/DS8/75/2/3G

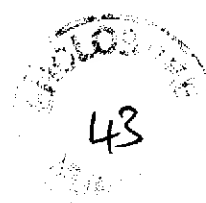
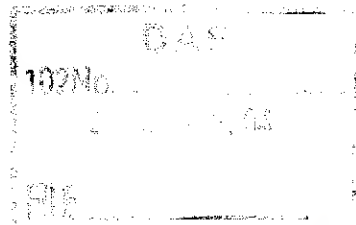
TBA	1977	UFO Reports: Reports and correspondence, Oct-Dec 1977	D/DS8/2/3C
TBA	1977	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/1B
TBA	1978	UFO: Parliamentary correspondence	D/DS8/2/3 Pt A
TBA	1979	UFO reports and correspondence	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt F
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt H
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt G
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt H
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt J
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt K
TBA	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt A
TBA	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt B
TBA	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt D
TBA	1979	TV discussion on UFOs	D/DS8/75/6 Pt A
TBA	1979	Satellite Debris	D/DS8/75/7 Pt A
TBA	1980	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt L
TBA	1980	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt M
TBA	1980	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt A
TBA	1980	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt B
TBA	1981	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt A
TBA	1981	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt B
TBA	1982	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt C
TBA	1982	General, briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt D
TBA	1983	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt E
TBA	1980-96	UFOs Report of sighting Rendlesham Forest, December 1981 <b>Not for TNA yet - but file has been released under CODE and placed if FOI Publication Scheme</b>	D/Sec(AS) 12/2/1
TBA	1983	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt A
TBA	1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt B
TBA	1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt F
TBA	1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt G
DEFE 24/1225 last piece transferred to TNA in July 2004			
DEFE 31 DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE STAFF: REGISTERED FILES			
118	1958-63	UFO; Policy	DI/55/40/9/1 Pt 1
119	1963-67	Ditto <b>(118 &amp; 119 OPEN - RELEASED 1998)</b>	DI/55/40/9/1 Pt 2
163	1979	UFO's: incidents	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 21
164	1979	Ditto	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 22
165	1979	Ditto	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 23
166	1979	Ditto	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 24
167	1979	Ditto <b>(163-167 due for release 2010)</b>	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 25
DEFE 31/167 last piece transferred to TNA in June 2004			
DEFE 41 FOREIGN OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF DEFENCE:			



<b>SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH AND OVERSEAS LIAISON BRANCH: REGISTERED FILES</b>			
74	1950	DSI/JTIC Minutes	6005/8/D 17 Vol 4
75	1951	Ditto	6005/8/D 17 Vol 5
76	1952 - 54	Ditto (74 - 76 OPEN - RELEASED 1996)	6005/8/D 17 Vol 6
117	1949 - 50	Unorthodox Aircraft	9017/8 Vol 1
153	1953 - 54	DSI/JTIC papers (117 & 153 OPEN - RELEASED 1996)	D19/ Vol 5
DEFE 41/161 last piece transferred to TNA in October 1998			
<b>DEFE 44 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: DIRECTORATE of SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE, later DIRECTORATE of SCIENTIFIC and TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE: REPORTS and MEMORANDA</b>			
119		DSI/JSTI Report NO 7	
DEFE 44/298 last piece transferred to TNA in March 2003			
<b>DEFE 71 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (AIR): REGISTERED FILES AND BRANCH FOLDERS</b>			
3	Jan 75 -Dec 77 (?)	Unidentified flying objects	AF/CX1 528/72 Pt 2
4	Jan 75 - Dec 77 (?)	Unidentified flying objects	AF/CX1 528/72 Pt 3
36	Jan-May 77	UFO Reports	D/S4(Air)8/2/3/A
37	Jun - Sep 77	Ditto (3, 4, 34 & 35 due for release 2008)	D/S4(Air)8/2/3 B
125	1977	Ministerial correspondence on UFO sightings on Humberside in May 1977 (Due for release 2008) DEFE71/125 not yet transferred to TNA	USoFS LAF AF/JW234/77
TBA	1976	M Heseltine (Description to be confirmed)	AF/JW221/76
TBA	1976	Nigel Lawson MP Mr Aleyne Body - UFO (Description to be confirmed)	AF/JW260/76
TBA	1976	R Hattlesley Esq Mr R Park - UFO (Description to be confirmed)	AF/JW270/76
TBA	1977	John Ellis - UFOs (Description to be confirmed)	MR/122505
DEFE 71/54 last piece transferred to TNA in September 2004			

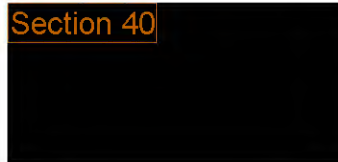
## MISSING FILE:

Not Hayes/DAS/Records1? If /when found for DEFE 24?	1980	UFO reports & correspondence	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt G
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**Dr David Clarke**

**Section 40**



**Section 40**

**Directorate of Air Staff - FOIA  
Ministry of Defence  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB**

23 November 2004

Dear **Section 40**

Many thanks for your letter of 13 October and for the material you enclosed. The additional background information supplements the verbal answers to the questions **Section 40** and I provided in advance of our meeting on 1 October. Together they provide a comprehensive account of the meeting and as such are useful for research purposes.

In return I enclose a copy of the notes I prepared afterwards, for your information. I would be grateful if you could check these and inform me of any errors that may have arisen from my shorthand notes of what was said.

As you will see there are a small number of items marked with an asterisk which I felt required further clarification. I have itemized these below:

QA (1) pg 1: Number of staff employed in DAS. My notes refer to two sections. Could you explain the responsibilities and staffing of these?

**Section 40**

QB (6) pg 5: Paragraphs from pg 2 of the Flying Saucer Working Party report of 1951 (DEFE 44/119) withheld under Section 3(4) of Public Records Act. Has any progress been made on the release of this?

QD (2) pg 7: **Section 40** photograph. What conclusion has MoD reached concerning the nature of the image following the extensive analysis you have carried out?

QD (5) pg 8: You mentioned during our meeting that the numbers of UFO reports increased following the release of the crop circle film 'Signs.' This raises the question of MoD interest in crop circles. Is DAS responsible for answering questions on this subject? I understand that Nick Pope opened a file on this topic whilst in post at Sec(AS)2a circa 1991-2. Could you supply the reference and title of this file and any others referring to crop circles held in MoD archives?

Secondly, I refer to my email of 7 October where I mentioned a number of discrepancies in the list of UFO related files awaiting transfer to TNA (Annex A, provided on 1 October). Having scrutinised this document I have noticed that it contains a number of UFO-related files that do not appear on the list you supplied on 28 July 2003 (your ref D/DAS/64/3/11). Specifically I note the following :

Annex A, Pg1

a) referring to the table at the top of the page. Is it possible to supply a list of the files due to be released in 2006 (13), 2007 (13), 2008 (11) and 2009 (6).

b) File refs AF/BJ84/76 (Sir John Langford-Holt) and AF/BY76/76 (Dr Coleman) are dated 1976 and yet do not appear on the TNA catalogue. Is there a reason why they remain 'in transit' given their dates ?

c) The file listed as DEFE 24/1291 (former Ref D/DS8/75/2/3D) appears on your original list (28 July 2003) and on the TNA catalogue as DEFE 24/1208. Which piece number is the correct one ?

Annexe A, Pg 2

a) The seven files beginning with D/DS8/75/2/3C (1977) listed as TBA and 'not yet transferred' appear to have been transferred to TNA, possibly since this annex was compiled. I have identified them on the TNA catalogue as DEFE 24/1205-7 and DEFE 24/1209-1212. Could you confirm these are the same files? I intend to apply to TNA for access to these and DEFE 24/1291 (or DEFE 24/1208 ?) under the FOIA in January.

b) Five 'Defence Intelligence' files (DEFE 31/177-181) appear to form part of the DI 55 archive but these five do not appear on the list you supplied on 28 July, 2003. I understood all these files (except for one, the 1993 Cosford incident) were contaminated by asbestos. On Annex A they are shown as "not yet transferred to TNA". Could you confirm these files are not among those listed as contaminated ? Does this mean they are accessible under FOIA ?

Annexe A, Pg 3

'Missing files'. Please could you notify me as and when any of these missing files are located and allocated TNA references.

Thankyou for enclosing the copies of the documents from D/DPR(RAF)326 Part A which were outstanding from my earlier request. These are probably some of the most interesting and informative documents I have seen during my research into this subject. They contain references to a number of other 'policy' documents that presumably form part of the Sec(AS) 'UFO Policy files' for 1995-2000 (D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pts A-E). In your letter of 23 December 2003 you provided a quote for copying these five files under the Code of Practice for Access to Government Information. I intend to apply for them using the FOIA procedure in the new year.

Finally, I note that you are continuing to pursue the release of enclosures 95 and 96 from D/AIR DEF/111/6/4 Part F (part of my earlier request) and I look forward to receiving these in due course.

DAS  
-FOI  
Charging?

Tru Ullip

Section 40  
Section 40

In the meantime I wish to thank you and **Section 40** for your help and assistance during the course of the year, and wish you both a happy Christmas holiday.

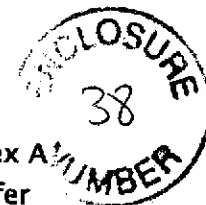
Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.



Copy given to Dr Clarke at meeting 11/10/04



Annex A

**UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - FILES NOT YET TRANSFERRED (i.e. awaiting transfer and/or listing) - AS AT 13 September 2004**

Already open		105
To be released		
2005	13	
2006	9	
2007	13	
2008	11	
2009	6	
Awaiting Transfer	9	
Awaiting Listing/transfer	34	
Stored at Feltham <sup>1</sup>	1	
Retained S3(4) <sup>2</sup>	1	
Too soon for TNA <sup>3</sup>	1	
Total carried over		98
Total identified (released/unreleased)		203

<i>The National Archives: Letter Code and piece number</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description of piece</i>	<i>Former reference</i>
<b>DEFE 13 Private Office Papers</b>			
1184	1977	Richard Luce MP: J Glover - UFOs (ALTHOUGH PREPARED FOR TNA FILE HAS BEEN ISOLATED DUE TO ITS STORAGE WITH FILES PREVIOUSLY LOCATED IN OWO)	AF/JW562/77 MR/12554
Piece number to be allocated (TBA)	1976	Sir John Langford-Holt MO M J Hessessy - UFO Enquiry	AF/BJ84/76
TBA	1976	Dr Coleman JP Mr R J Whitrow - UFO Enquiry	AF/BY76/76
<b>DEFE 19 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: CENTRAL DEFENCE SCIENTIFIC STAFF and predecessors: REGISTERED FILES (CSA, AE 1 and A SERIES) and PAPERS</b>			
9	1948 - 1960	Scientific intelligence. (RETAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH S3(4) OF PRA, BUT INCLUDES DSI/JTIC REPORT NO 7 ON UFO STUDY. REPORT EXTRACTED AND RELEASED IN DEFE 44)	CSA/ALPH/51
<b>DEFE 24 Defence Secretariat: Registered Files (DS Series)</b>			
1289	Apr - Aug 78	UFO Reports edited copies	D/DS8/75/2/2E
1290	Aug - Oct 78	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/2F
1291	Jan - Mar 78	UFO Reports	(D/DS8/75/2/3D)
1292	Sep - Oct 78	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3G

<sup>1</sup> One file, although prepared for TNA, has been temporarily relocated to Feltham as part of a consignment of files contaminated with asbestos.

<sup>2</sup> Although DEFE 19/9 is retained the DSI/JSTI Report NO 7 has been extracted (and replaced with a copy) and released as DEFE 44/119.

<sup>3</sup> Rendlesham Forest occurrence (1980-96) - file already placed in Publication Scheme.

		(1289 – 1292 Not yet transferred – due for release 2009)	
TBA	1977	UFO Reports: Reports and correspondence, Oct-Dec 1977	D/DS8/2/3C
TBA	1977	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/1B
TBA	1977-78	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/1C
TBA	1978	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3E
TBA	1978	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3F
TBA	1978	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3H
TBA	1978	Ditto (TBA TNA class & piece numbers – due for release 2007/08)	D/DS8/75/2/3J
TBA	1978	UFO: Parliamentary correspondence	D/DS8/2/3 Pt A
TBA	1979	UFO reports and correspondence	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt F
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt H
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt G
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt H
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt J
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt K
TBA	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt A
TBA	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt B
TBA	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt D
TBA	1979	TV discussion on UFOs	D/DS8/75/6 Pt A
TBA	1979	Satellite Debris	D/DS8/75/7 Pt A
TBA	1980	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt L
TBA	1980	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt M
TBA	1980	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt A
TBA	1980	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt B
TBA	1981	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt A
TBA	1981	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt B
TBA	1982	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt C
TBA	1982	General, briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt D
TBA	1983	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt E
NOT FOR TNA (YET)	1980-96	UFOs Report of sighting Rendlesham Forest, December 1981 Not for TNA yet – but file has been released under CODE and placed in FOI Publication Scheme	D/Sec(AS) 12/2/1
TBA	1983	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt.
TBA	1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt.
TBA	1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt F
TBA	1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt G
DEFE 31 DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE STAFF: REGISTERED FILES			
177	?	UFO's: incidents	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 21
178	?	Ditto	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 22
179	?	Ditto	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 23
180	?	Ditto	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 24
181	?	Ditto (177 – 181 due for release 2010?) NOT YET TRANSFERRED TO TNA (as at Jun 04)	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 25

**MISSING FILES: After an extensive search of Hayes, Records1 and DAS [although Hayes state that items 1-5 with Records1]**

<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1?</b>	1976	M Heseltine	AF/JW221/76
<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1</b>	1976	Nigel Lawson MP Mr Aleyne Body - UFO	AF/JW260/76
<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1?</b>	1976	R Hattersley Esq Mr R Park - UFO	AF/JW270/76
<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1?</b>	1977	John Ellis - UFOs	MR/122505
<b>Hayes?</b>	1979	Unidentified Flying Object	MR/122433
<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1?</b>	1980	UFO reports & correspondence	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt G

**Note:**

**Items 1-5 - if located to be assigned to DEFE 13**

**Item 6 - if located to be assigned to DEFE 24**

list dated 28 July 2003



MOD FILE REFERENCE	TITLE OF FILE	PERIOD OF CONTENTS	THE NATIONAL ARCHIVE REFERENCE WHERE ALLOCATED
AF/447	UFO Reports: Edited	1 Aug 1975 – 30 June 1976	For release in 2007 TNA Ref : AIR2/18949 Some papers duplicated in AIR 2/18968: 18969:18970:18971: 18972: 18973 &18974
AF/7464/72 Pt IV	UFO Reports	1975-76	For release in 2007 TNA Ref: AIR 2/18920
AF/7464/72 Pt V	UFO Reports	1976	For release in 2007 TNA Ref: AIR 2/18921
AF/608	UFO Reports	1-31 January 1976	For release in 2007 TNA Ref: AIR 2/18969
AF/609	UFO Reports	1-28 February 1976	For release in 2007 TNA Ref: AIR 2/18970
AF/610	UFO Reports	1-31 March 1976	For release in 2007 TNA Ref: AIR 2/18971
AF/611	UFO Reports	1-30 April 1976	For release in 2007 TNA Ref: AIR 2/18972
AF/612	UFO Reports	1-31 May 1976	For release in 2007 TNA Ref: AIR 2/18973
AF/613	UFO Reports	1-30 June 1976	For release in 2007 TNA Ref: AIR 2/18974
AF/616	UFO Reports	1-30 September 1976	For release in 2007 TNA Ref: AIR 2/18975
AF/617	UFO Reports	1-31 October 1976	For release in 2007 TNA Ref: AIR 2/18976
AF/618	UFO Reports	1-30 November 1976	For release in 2007 TNA Ref: AIR 2/18977
AF/619	UFO Reports	1-31 December 1976	For release in 2007 TNA Ref: AIR 2/18978
AF/BJ84/76	Sir John Langford Holt MO Mr ----- UFO enquiry	1976	Held in MOD
AF/JW260/76	Nigel Lawson MP Mr ----- UFO	1976	Held in MOD
AF/BJ76/76	Dr Coleman JP MP ----- UFO	1976	Held in MOD
MR/12554	Richard Luce MP ----- UFOs	1977	Held in MOD
D/S4(Air)8/2/3 Pt A	UFO Reports	Jan-May 1977	For release in 2008 TNA Ref: DEFE 71/34
D/S4(Air)8/2/3 Pt B	UFO Reports	June-Sept 1977	For release in 2008 TNA Ref: DEFE 71/35
D/S4(Air)8/2/3 Pt F	UFO Reports	June-Aug 1978	Held in MOD
D/S4(Air)8/2/3 Pt G	UFO Reports	Nov 1978	Held in MOD
D/S4(Air)8/2/3 Pt H	UFO Reports	Dec 1978	Held in MOD

D/DS8/2/3 Pt C	UFO Reports	Oct -Dec 1977	For release in 2008. TNA Ref: DEFE 24/1205 (Provisional)
D/DS8/2/3 Pt D	UFO Reports	Jan-March 1978	For release in 2009 TNA DEFE 24/1207 (Provisional)
D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt B	UFO Reports & Correspondence	1977	For release in 2008 TNA Ref:24/1206
D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt C	UFO Reports & Correspondence	1978	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt F	UFO Reports & Correspondence	1979	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt G	UFO Reports & Correspondence	1980	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt H	UFO Reports & Correspondence	1980	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt A	UFO Reports: Edited	April - July 1977	For release in 2008 TNA Ref: DEFE24/977
D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt B	UFO Reports: Edited	April-September 1977	For release in 2008 TNA Ref: DEFE24/978
D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt C	UFO Reports: Edited	Sept - Dec 1977	For release in 2008 TNA Ref: DEFE24/979
D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt D	UFO Reports: Edited	1977	For release in 2009 TNA Ref to be allocated
D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt E	UFO Reports: Edited	April - Aug 1978	For release in 2009 TNA Ref to be allocated
D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt F	UFO Reports: Edited	Aug-Oct 1978	For release in 2009 TNA Ref to be allocated
D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt G	UFO Reports: Edited	1979	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt H	UFO Reports: Edited	1979	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt J	UFO Reports: Edited	1979	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt K	UFO Reports: Edited	1979	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt L	UFO Reports: Edited	1980	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt M	UFO Reports: Edited	1980	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt D	UFO Reports & Correspondence	Jan- Mar 1978	For release in 2009 TNA Ref: DEFE 24/1208 (Provisional)
D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt E	UFO Reports	April-May 1978	For release in 2009 TNA Ref: DEFE 24/1209 (Provisional)
D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt F	UFO Reports	June-Aug 1978	For release in 2009 TNA Ref: DEFE 24/1210 (Provisional)
D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt G	UFO Reports	Sept-Oct 1978	For release in 2009 TNA Ref to be allocated
D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt H	UFO Reports	Nov 1978	For release in 2009 TNA Ref: DEFE 24/1211 (Provisional)



D/DS8/75/2/3 Pt J	UFO Reports	Dec 1978	For release in 2009 TNA Ref: DEFE 24/1212 (provisional)
D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt A	UFO Reports	1979	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt B	UFO Reports	1979	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt D	UFO Reports	1979	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt A	UFO Reports	1980	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt B	UFO Reports	1980	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/3	UFOs: Parliamentary Correspondence	1978	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/6 Pt A	TV Discussion on UFOs	1979	Held in MOD
D/DS8/75/7 Pt A	Satellite Debris	1979	Held in MOD
D/DS8/10/209 Pt A	General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence	1981	Held in MOD
D/DS8/10/209 Pt B	General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence	1981	Held in MOD
D/DS8/10/209 Pt C	General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence	1982	Held in MOD
D/DS8/10/209 Pt D	General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence	1982	Held in MOD
D/DS8/10/209 Pt E	General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence	1983	Held in MOD
D/DS8/10/209 Pt F	General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence	1984	Held in MOD
D/DS8/10/209 Pt G	General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence	1984	Held in MOD
D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt A	General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence	1983	Held in MOD
D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt B	General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence	1984	Held in MOD
D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt C	General Briefs & Reports, UFO Correspondence	1985	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/1 Pt A	UFO Policy	1985	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt A	UFO Reports	1985	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt B	UFO Reports	1985	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt C	UFO Reports	1986	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt D	UFO Reports	1987	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt E	UFO Reports	1988	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt F	UFO Reports	1988	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt G	UFO Reports	1989	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt H	UFO Reports	1989	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt I	UFO Reports	1990	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt J	UFO Reports	1990	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt K	UFO Reports	1991	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt L	UFO Reports	1992	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt M	UFO Reports	1993	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt N	UFO Reports	1994	Held in MOD

D/Sec(AS)12/2 Pt O	UFO Reports	1995	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/2/1	UFOs – Report of Sighting, Rendlesham Forrest, December 1981	1980 –1996	File held in MOD Released into MOD FOI Publication Scheme Nov 2002
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt A	UFO Correspondence	1985	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt B	UFO Correspondence	1986	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt C	UFO Correspondence	1987	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt D	UFO Correspondence	1988	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt E	UFO Correspondence	1989	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt F	UFO Correspondence	1989	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt G	UFO Correspondence	1989	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt I	UFO Correspondence	1991	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt J	UFO Correspondence	1992	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt K	UFO Correspondence	1992	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt L	UFO Correspondence	1993	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt M	UFO Correspondence	1993	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt N	UFO Correspondence	1993	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt O	UFO Correspondence	1994-95	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt P	UFO Correspondence	1994-95	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt Q	UFO Correspondence	1994-95	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt R	UFO Correspondence	1994-95	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/3 Pt S	UFO Correspondence	1995	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/4 Pt A	UFO –Parliamentary Correspondence	N/K	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/4 Pt B	UFO – Parliamentary Correspondence	1995	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/5	UFOs- Close encounter reports, alien entities, abductions etc	1992	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/6	UFOs – Alleged UFO incident-Crash of Lightning F6 – 8 Sept 1970	1992	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)12/7	UFOs – Alleged UFO incident 31 March 1993	1993	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pt A	UFOs –Policy	1995-97	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pt B	UFOs –Policy	Jan – Sept 1997	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pt C	UFOs –Policy	Sept 1997 – April 1998	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pt D	UFOs –Policy	May 1998 – Oct 2000	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/1 Pt E	UFOs – Policy	2000 – 2002	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt A	UFO-Sighting Reports	Sept 1995 – Jan 1996	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt B	UFO-Sighting Reports	Jan – June 1996	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt C	UFO-Sighting Reports	June – Aug 1996	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt D	UFO-Sighting Reports	Aug-Dec 1996	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt E	UFO- Sighting Reports	Jan-July 1997	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt F	UFO–Sighting Reports	July-Oct 1997	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt G	UFO–Sighting Reports	Nov 1997 –July 1998	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt H	UFO- Sighting Reports	July 1998 – Feb 1999	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt I	UFO- Sighting Reports	Feb – Dec 1999	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/2 Pt J	UFO–Sighting Reports	Jan-June 2000	Held in MOD
D/DAS(Sec)64/2 Pt K	UFO- Sighting Reports	July-Sept 2000	Held in MOD
D/DAS(Sec)64/2 Pt L	UFO- Sighting Reports	Dec 2000 – Mar 2001	Held in MOD
D/DAS(Sec)64/2 Pt M	UFO- Sighting Reports	March – Oct 2001	Held in MOD
D/DAS/64/2 Pt N	UFO- Sighting Reports	Oct 2001 – Oct 2002	Held in MOD
D/DAS/64/2 Pt O	UFO- Sighting Reports	Nov 2002 – Present	Held in MOD

D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt A	UFO-Public Correspondence	Sept-Nov 1995	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt B	UFO-Public Correspondence	Nov 1995 –Mar 1996	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt C	UFO-Public Correspondence	Mar –April 1996	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt D	UFO-Public Correspondence	April-July 1996	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt E	UFO-Public Correspondence	July-Aug 1996	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt F	UFO-Public Correspondence	Aug-Oct 1996	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt G	UFO-Public Correspondence	Nov 1996 –Jan 1997	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt H	UFO-Public Correspondence	Jan – Feb 1997	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt I	UFO-Public Correspondence	Mar – June 1997	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt J	UFO-Public Correspondence	June – Aug 1997	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt K	UFO-Public Correspondence	Aug – Dec 1997	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt L	UFO-Public Correspondence	Dec 1997 –Mar 1998	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt M	UFO-Public Correspondence	Mar-May 1998	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt N	UFO-Public Correspondence	May – Aug 1998	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt O	UFO-Public Correspondence	Aug-Dec 1998	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt P	UFO-Public Correspondence	Dec 1998 –April 1999	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt Q	UFO-Public Correspondence	Mar – Sept 1999	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt R	UFO-Public Correspondence	Sept – Dec 1999	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt S	UFO-Public Correspondence	Dec 1999 –June 2000	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3 Pt T	UFO-Public Correspondence & Requests for information	June – Sept 2000	Held in MOD
D/DAS(Sec)64/3 Pt U	UFO-Public Correspondence & Requests for information	Sept 2000 – Jan 2001	Held in MOD
D/DAS/64/3 Pt V	UFO-Public Correspondence & Requests for information	Feb – May 2001	Held in MOD
D/DAS/64/3 Pt W	UFO-Public Correspondence & Requests for information	July – Nov 2001	Held in MOD
D/DAS/64/3 Pt X	UFO-Public Correspondence & Requests for information	Nov 2001 – June 2002	Held in MOD

D/DAS/64/3 Pt Y	UFO-Public Correspondence & Requests for information	June – Nov 2002	Held in MOD
D/DAS/64/3 Pt Z	UFO-Public Correspondence & Requests for information	Dec 2002 to 2003 (June)	Held in MOD
D/DAS/64/3 Pt AA	UFO –Public Correspondence & Requests for information	June 2003 to Present	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3/1 Pt A	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent	1996-1999	Held in MOD
D/DAS(Sec)64/3/1 Pt B	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	1999 – 2001	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3/2	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	1998 – 2000	Held in MOD
D/DAS(Sec)64/3/3	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	1997 – 2001	Held in MOD
D/DAS(Sec)64/3/4	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	1997-1998	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3/5	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	1996 –2001	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3/6	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	1998	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3/7	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	1994-1999	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3/8	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	1997-1998	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3/9	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	1996 – 1998	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/3/10	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	2000 –2003	Held in MOD
D/DAS(Sec)64/3/11 Pt A	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent – Dr David Clarke	1999 –2001	Held in MOD
D/DAS(Sec)64/3/11 Pt B	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent – Dr David Clarke	2001 –2002	Held in MOD
D/DAS/64/3/11 Pt C	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent – Dr David Clarke	2002	Held in MOD

D/DAS/64/3/11 Pt D	UFO Correspondence – Persistent Correspondent – Dr David Clarke	2002 to Present	Held in MOD
D/DAS/64/3/12	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	2001 to Present	Held in MOD
D/DAS/64/3/13	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	2000 to Present	Held in MOD
D/DAS/64/3/14	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	2000 to Present	Held in MOD
D/DAS/64/3/15	UFO Correspondence- Persistent Correspondent	2000 to Present	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/4 Pt A	UFOs-Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	Sept 1995 – Sept 1996	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/4 Pt B	UFOs-Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	Sept – Nov 1996	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/4 Pt C	UFOs-Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	Nov 1996 – July 1997	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/4 Pt D	UFOs-Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	July – Oct 1997	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/4 Pt E	UFOs-Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	1997-1998	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/4 Pt F	UFOs-Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	1998-2001	Held in MOD
D/DAS(Sec)64/4 Pt G	UFOs-Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	Mar – Oct 2001	Held in MOD
D/DAS/64/4 Pt H	UFOs-Parliamentary Questions & Enquiries	Dec 2001 – 2002	Held in MOD
D/Sec(AS)64/5	UFOs-Press Cuttings	1996 to Present	Held in MOD
DD/Ops(GE)10/8 Pt A	UFO debate House of Lords	1982	Held in MOD
DD Ops(GE)10/8 Pt J	Admin & Gen – UFOs	1983	Held in MOD
DD Ops(GE) 10/8 Pt K	Admin & Gen - UFOs	1983	Held in MOD
D Air Def/111/6/4 Pt F	Command Control, Communication & Information – Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	1991	Held in MOD
D/Air Def/111/6/4 Pt G	Command Control, Communication & Information – Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	1992-95	Held in MOD
D Air Def/111/6/4 Pt H	Command Control, Communication & Information – Air Traffic Control-Low Flying UFOs	1995	Held in MOD
D/DAO/1/13 Pt A	ADGE –UFO Reports	1995 – 1996	Held in MOD
D/DAO/1/13 Pt B	ADGE –UFO Reports	1996 – 1997	Held in MOD
D/DAO/1/13 Pt C	ADGE –UFO Reports	1997 – 1999	Held in MOD
D/DAO/1/13 Pt D	ADGE –UFO Reports	1999 – 2001	Held in MOD
D/DAO/1/13 Pt E	ADGE –UFO Reports	2001 – 2003	Held in MOD
D/DAO/1/13 Pt F	ADGE UFO Reports	2003– Present	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15 Pt 4	UFO Policy	1971 –1996	Held in MOD



D/DI55/108/15 Pt 5	UFO Policy	1996 – 2000	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15 Pt 6	UFO Policy	2000 – 2002	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15 Pt 7	UFO Policy	2002 to Present	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 9	UFO Incident Reports	Period not known	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 32	UFO Incident Reports	Feb 1978 – Jan 1983	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 34	UFO Incident Reports	June 1983 – Mar 1985	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 35	UFO Incident Reports	April 1985 – Dec 1986	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 36A	UFO Incident Reports	Dec 1986 – Nov 1987	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 36B	UFO Incident Reports	Nov 1987-July 1988	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 37	UFO Incident Reports	Aug 1988 – July 1989	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 38	UFO Incident Reports	July – Dec 1989	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 39	UFO Incident Reports	Jan 1990 – June 1991	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 40	UFO Incident Reports	June 1991 – Jan 1992	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 41	UFO Incident Reports	Feb 1992 – April 1993	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 42	UFO Incident Reports	April – Oct 1993	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 43	UFO Incident Reports	Oct 1993 –Jan 1994	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 44	UFO Incident Reports	Jan – May 1994	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 45	UFO Incident Reports	June – Nov 1994	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 46	UFO Incident Reports	Nov 1994 – May 1995	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 47	UFO Incident Reports	June 1995 – Jan 1996	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 48	UFO Incident Reports	Feb – July 1996	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 49	UFO Incident Reports	Aug – Oct 1996	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 50	UFO Incident Reports	Nov 1996 – Dec 1997	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 51	UFO Incident Reports	Jan 1997 – 2002	Held in MOD
D/DI55/108/15/2	UFO –Cosford Incident	1993	Held in MOD
MO/9/18 Pt I(?)	UFO Policy	1996	Held in MOD
DRP(RAF)326/2 Pt A	Security Matters – Correspondence UFOs	2000	Held in MOD
2GP(BP)888772/10IST AR Pt A	UFO reports	2001	Held in MOD



From: **Section 40**  
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Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**

Your Reference

Our Reference

D/DAS/64/3/11

Date

13th October 2004

Dear Dr Clarke

It was very good to meet you and **Section 40** on 1 October. **Section 40** and myself hope you found our discussion useful. I promised at our meeting to let you have details of the areas we covered at our meeting, together with some further background information to the questions you provided in your letter of 25 August. This is attached at Annex A.

At our meeting you additionally asked whether UFO files that are held at The National Archive, but not yet available, will be released immediately on 1 January 2005. I have consulted our records staff, who advise that this was an FOI initiative by TNA, but it is up to TNA to decide when they will release material they hold. We suggest that you look out for announcements by TNA.

**Section 40** also raised a question about whether balloons can be seen on radar and the possibility of terrorist organisations using balloons to infiltrate UK airspace. I will write to **Section 40** separately, but for your information, our radar specialist has advised that there is currently no threat assessment that any terrorist organisation is using balloons. It is possible to see balloons on air defence radar, but the radar is configured to ignore objects such as balloons, flocks of birds, etc in order to avoid cluttering the radar screen. Civil air traffic radar are able to see balloons and will alert air defence staff of any unusual air activity that may be a threat to the security of UK airspace.

Finally, please find enclose a copy of the documents from D/DPR(RAF)326 Part A which were outstanding from your earlier request. Personal data has been removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. We are still pursuing the possible release of enclosures 95 and 96 from D/AIR DEF/111/6/4 Part F and I will write to you again as soon as we have a decision.

I hope this information will help you with any areas that were unclear after our meeting, but if you require any further clarification, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

**Section (A) MOD Policy and UFOs**

**1) Which documents / briefings form the basis of current policy? What is the earliest dated document currently used for policy?**

MOD policy on UFOs has not been through periodic formal reviews, but has evolved over many years. There is therefore no particular document or instruction which is used by current staff when handling UFO reports and correspondence. The policy has changed little over the years and has generally been based on two areas of interest. The first, to see if the reports provide any evidence that UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised aircraft and secondly, to see if they contained any information of value about the performance and threat of foreign weapons systems, nuclear, chemical and biological warfare programmes and emerging technologies. The policy of routinely examining reports for these reasons remained until December 2000 when the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) decided that as they had received reports for 30 years without any producing anything of interest to them, they no longer wished to see them.

The earliest surviving UFO Policy file dates from 1970-71 and is already available for viewing at The National Archives. The earliest file held by DAS dates from 1985.

**2) Outline of working relationships of the departments / branches responsible for dealing with UFO matters the process whereby MOD receives and investigates reports.**

There are now only two departments routinely involved with processing UFO reports. The first of these is DAS who is the focal point for matters relating to UFOs and the other is the air defence experts whose expertise we call upon on occasion for advice. All UFO reports are handled by DAS and are only referred to the air defence staff where DAS feels there may be something of interest to them. Staff resources allocated to this task in DAS is 1.5 people, with supervision by an Assistant Director. It forms the lesser part of responsibilities of the Desk Officers.

**3) What factors lay behind DIST decision of October 2000 that they are no longer interested in receiving reports?**

DIS staff decided in late 2000 that as they had looked at UFO reports for 30 years and none had ever revealed any useful information to them, they no longer wished to see them.

**4) How far are current DAS personnel aware of the past involvement of the MOD in UFO matters and how they got involved (is there any form of history describing which secretariat was responsible for the subject in the past, etc?)**

The MOD has only a limited interest in UFO sightings and current staff do not study the history of the MOD's involvement in UFO matters, nor do they need to in order to process sighting reports. When asked questions about the MOD's past involvement in these matters any surviving files of the period are examined in order to give as accurate a reply as possible.

**5) Would it be possible to contact previous incumbents of S4(Air), DS8 etc for interviews as part of this study?**

Civil Servants move posts every few years and it is not our policy to assist individuals to contact previous members of this branch. It is for the present incumbent of this post to answer questions relating to these matters.

**6) Reasons why MOD are reluctant to take part in public discussion of UFO matters or to provide a "spokesperson" for media?**

The MOD's interest in UFO sightings is limited to the defence of UK airspace from hostile air activity, not the exploration of space or the search for life on other planets. Clearly there are those who refuse to believe this and wish instead to believe that the MOD is covering up knowledge of alien activity. No amount of public discussion or debate is likely to change this view and the MOD does not have the time or resources to get involved in such activity on a subject of limited interest. If the media have any questions, they are able to contact the MOD Press Office just as they can on any other defence issue.

**7) MOD Publication Scheme and UFOs: what factors led the MOD to accept there was a "public interest" in the subject and how they intend to address this.**

The MOD has been aware that there is a public interest in UFO matters for a number of years. Until the Freedom of Information Act is introduced in January 2005 all MOD files are subject to the Public Records Act 1998 and are generally closed from public viewing for a period of 30 years after the date of the last enclosure. The Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code) is an open government initiative introduced in 1994 (revised in 1997) to encourage the provision of information unless its disclosure would be harmful. Until the introduction of the FOIA there is no statutory obligation on Government departments to release information. The MOD Publication Scheme is part of the introduction of the FOIA and when launched in 2002 we saw it as an opportunity to make some of the most frequently requested information more widely available.

**8) What is the MOD's view of former incumbents of the 'UFO Desk' giving media interviews as de facto 'MOD spokesman' when the opinions expressed conflict with those of the department? This question refers to your letter to **Section 40** of 17 November 2003 where you state that the Ministry is keen to 'ensure that any personal viewpoint is not presented as MOD policy'.**

It would be inappropriate for us to discuss individuals but individuals can express their personal views, provided that they make it clear they are not acting in an official capacity.

**9) Nick Pope frequently refers to his time at the UFO desk as being part of "The Project". Was this term ever used for MOD UFO investigations, formally or informally?**

We have never heard of, or seen such a term having ever been used in the MOD.

**10) Does the role that Nick Pope occupied still exist? Is there an unclassified role description of that post available?**

I now perform the UFO desk duties previously performed by Nick Pope. My official title is Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information and my duties include UFO matters. I am also the Freedom of Information focal point for the Air staff. I have one member of staff who assists me in these duties.

11) Why in 1995 did Sec(AS)2a **Section 40** inform a member of the public that RAF Rudloe Manor / Flying Complaints Flight acted as "a co-ordination point" for UFO reports received by the RAF prior to 1992? Why has this matter been previously denied by previous incumbents of Sec(as)2a?

**Section 40**'s statement in 1995 was correct. Until 1992 the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF), based at RAF Rudloe Manor, was the central co-ordination point for any UFO reports made to RAF Stations (from whatever source, i.e. members of the public or service personnel). Its function was simply to record details and pass the reports directly to Sec(AS)2a. No action was taken on the reports by staff in the FCF. The FCF no longer have any involvement in the central collection of these reports. We do not know why this might have been denied by previous incumbents of Sec(AS)2a but if you would like to show us a specific example we could look at our records to see if there is an explanation.

### **Section (B) FOIA and archive material**

#### **1) The future of Defence Intelligence files subject to asbestos contamination – what other subject areas are affected?**

The Old War Office basement provided accommodation for the storage of files from three MOD branches; the Defence Intelligence Staff: the Departmental Records Officer (on behalf of the whole MOD) and the Air Historical Branch. All of the affected files have now been removed to another defence facility and a Project Board has been set up to consider options for the future of this information. No decisions have been made at this time.

#### **2) Future preservation of UFO files and destruction of files – possibility of storage in electronic formats.**

All MOD files are reviewed by the Departmental Record Officer at various times during their life and can be destroyed depending on whether they are considered to be of continuing administrative historical value. A list of those selected for possible preservation is sent to The National Archives (TNA) for approval. Electronic records are only just being created so it is too soon to consider preservation of these at TNA. We expect, however, that they will follow a similar review process to paper documents.

#### **3) How applications for access to UFO files held by MOD and MOD archives will proceed after January 2005 under FOIA.**

Under the FOIA requests for information must be made in a permanent form (ie. Letter or e-mail, not telephone) and must contain a name and postal address for a reply. Responses will be handled in a similar way to those processed under the Code.

#### **4) Status and titles of files currently in process of transfer from the MOD to TNA – possible dates of transfer etc.**

Please refer to the table I handed to you at our meeting. This shows the UFO files which are currently going through the review process before transfer to TNA. This can be a lengthy process involving review by the MOD records officers and approval, cataloguing, and collection by TNA. It is therefore impossible for us to say exactly when they will be available at TNA.

**5) Issue of payment for processing of files subsequently made available via the MOD publication scheme.**

Until the FOIA comes into force in January 2005, the MOD will continue to operate in accordance with the Code. The Code charging regime was designed to ensure that while providing information requested, we are not creating an extra burden on the taxpayer. The charge reflects staff time and resources which are being used to provide the information for individual requests. The purpose of the Publication Scheme is to enable the Department to make frequently requested information widely available. Information is released into the Scheme in classes. Information released in response to individual Code requests is not automatically added to the Publication Scheme, but it is possible that some of this released information may be included in future classes in the Scheme, if appropriate. We currently have no plans to refund fees paid for work carried out specifically for individual requests under the Code. The charging regime under the FOIA has yet to be finalised.

**6) Status of air intelligence and scientific intelligence files currently withheld under Section 3(4) of the Public Record Act in context of FOIA.**

Section 3(4) of the Public Records Act allows Government departments (with the permission of the Lord Chancellor) to retain records in the department beyond the 30 year point, where the record has been selected for TNA, but contains information which is still too sensitive for release. All of the DIS records which currently fit this description are subject to asbestos contamination. If these records are requested under the FOIA and there is no process in place to handle them safely - Health and Safety will be cited as grounds for non-compliance with the FOIA. Records retained under Section 3(4) after 1 January 2005 (which have not been contaminated) will be subject to the FOIA and can only be withheld in accordance with an FOIA exemption.

**7) Possible location of pre-1962 UFO records: the issue of "missing files" that are actually misplaced within other files with titles that do not reflect their UFO content.**

The department does not hold any UFO files which date before 1962. Any surviving DAS files of this period are already open in TNA. Of course it is always possible that documents may have been placed on inappropriate or seemingly unrelated files in the past and that those files have been retained in the Department for more than 30 years. There is, however, no way of identifying such documents, if indeed they exist. However, MOD records staff are aware of the public interest in UFOs and look out for any UFO related documents when reviewing the files.

**8) Missing Records: The possible file location of the 1955 report on "Flying Saucers" by DDI(Tech) to ACAS(I) referred to in Parliamentary papers of Major Sir Patrick Wall held at Hull University?**

The Departmental Records Organisation have confirmed that the Department does not hold any relevant file.

**Section ( C ) Radar systems and detections of UFOs**

**1) Is it not a matter of concern that radar systems are contrived to ignore returns outside the parameters of known aircraft technology?**

No. There is currently no suggestion or credible evidence (either here in the UK or from the international community) that there is any extra-terrestrial activity that poses a threat to UK national security.



**2) Does MOD maintain separate records of unidentified radar incidents and which department performs analysis of these?**

MOD does not maintain separate records of unidentified Air Defence radar incidents. This is due to the fact that there are no known incidents of the Air Defence radar or the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) detecting any object whose origin could not be explained. Air Defence radar plot data is archived for 30 days before it is overwritten. This is a flight safety requirement and is not related to concerns about unexplained radar sightings. BMEWS data is archived for 10 days before being overwritten. If radar operators did have any concerns, the radar could be "played back" and analysed by the local operational and technical subject matter experts. If this proved inconclusive, the data could be passed to specialist radar technical experts or the radar manufacturer. However, no such incidents have been recorded so this procedure has never been needed to be formalised or utilised.

**3) Given ambiguous nature of unidentified radar incidents from 1950s why were detailed records from this period destroyed?**

The MOD is only required to keep records until the desk officer responsible for the subject believe that they have no further administrative or operational value. As there has never been any suggestion or credible evidence that there was any extra-terrestrial activity that posed a threat to national security, the records would probably been destroyed under normal 'housekeeping' guidelines.

**4) How many such incidents on record in recent years and what action was taken?**

There are no records of any unidentified radar incidents in recent years.

**Section (D) UFO incidents**

**1) Rendlesham Forest incident; a) what specific factors led to release of the file: b) to whom was it first released: c) when will the original file be available for scrutiny at TNA?**

You were the first person to request a copy of the Rendlesham file in accordance with the Code and this led to the release of the file. Once other members of the public became aware that the file had been released, we received further requests for a copy of the released documents, so when the FOI Publication Scheme was launched in November 2000 we saw this as an opportunity to make these documents more widely available. With regard to the original documents on the Rendlesham Forest incident, I must inform you that MOD files can be reviewed at any time during their life, but can only be retained for a maximum of 30 years after the latest enclosure. It is normal practice to conduct the final review at the 25 year point. The last enclosure on the Rendlesham file is dated 1994, so the file could be reviewed in 2019 (if not sooner) and if selected for TNA it may be available at anytime after that date.

**2) Photographic cases: what (if any) criteria do they apply to decide whether or not they should examine a photo?**

We do not receive many photographs, but any that are sent to us are shown to our air defence experts to see if they show anything of interest to them. In the case of Mr Birch's photograph, which you mentioned at our meeting, he had clearly gone to a great deal of trouble himself, having his camera and film both examined by photographic experts, so exceptionally we decided to see if our Image Analysts could provide any additional information.

**3) Reports by Civil Aviation pilots: how many in recent years and what procedures are followed to investigate these.**

All reports are filed in the order in which they are received, not by the source of the report and therefore we do not keep separate records of those from civil pilots. Any reports received from civilian pilots would be passed to our air defence experts to see if they judge that they contain anything of defence significance.

**4) Reports by Air Force and other personnel: How many in recent years?**

As above, separate records are not kept.

**5) Total numbers and most likely explanation for UFO reports received within last three years.**

Total number of reports received: 2001 = 203  
2002 = 100  
2003 = 99  
2004 = 68 (as at 30 September 2004)

The MOD only examines UFO reports to see if they contain anything of defence significance. We do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported sighting.

326/2

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI(ST)/11/10

28 May 1997

Copies sent to Dr Clarke  
with letter D/DAS/64/3/11  
dated 13 Oct 94.

Sec(AS)2

Copy to: AOAD1  
PSO/ACAS  
DAO  
Hd Sec(AS)  
DI Sec  
DPR(RAF)  
AD/DI 55

Section 40

2/6/97

**UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA - POLICY**

Ref A: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 13 May 97.

1. Thank you for your minute and your observations.
2. UFO/UAP. I note that you will continue to use the term "UFO" and appreciate your logic. We prefer to use the term UAP internally to DI(ST) since I believe that it more accurately describes the topic.
3. DIS Interests. Your existing policy statement is already classified RESTRICTED - POLICY and I believe that this is adequate to cover my suggested minor amendment. In dealing with the public I would expect you to continue to use the expression "anything of defence significance".
4. Archive. By archive I meant your UFO report files since I assumed that you retain files to assist in answering questions from the public. My proposal was meant to indicate that once the database was established we would not retain any paper reports. I do not envisage that this practice would impose any additional work on your department.
5. Database/Customers. DSc(Air) TG 3 and 4 strongly support our proposed initiative. If DAO still have no interest in any data-basing of material then I will support the minor costs involved from within my own budget. I am still prepared to include any minor DAO requirements if they do not have a significant effect on

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costs.

6. I hope that my comments have assisted in your understanding of my intentions. I have no wish to "send the public a misleading message" and I will (as always in the DIS) take appropriate steps to ensure that the public do **not** become aware of this minor project.

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[REDACTED]  
DI (ST)

[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1815

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[REDACTED]

e. You say (para 6) that you need an adequate reference system for information culled from reports and intend a database, albeit that you have not yet determined how it might be achieved, and that incorporating retrospective reports depends on the costs involved. But you also say that you have to decide whether it should be 'DIS policy to retain other reports or rely on our archive'. I am rather confused about what this means. Are the 'other' reports those copied to you previously which do not fall into the three categories (para d above), or those which will not be copied to you in future? Either way, I am concerned that you favour relying on our archive because you do not say what this might entail and I am afraid there are no Sec(AS) resources to support your work. If there is a DIS requirement for access to archive material I think it makes sense for DIS to retain the information.

f. Returning to the subject of a database (para 7), you suggest DAO's requirements also need considering and propose a single framework, sharing responsibility for data entry. However, AOAD1 has said they have no requirement for a database (D/DAO/1/13 dated 25th March, para 11) and, as I made clear in my reply to him, Sec(AS) has no need of one either. It would be helpful to know who else might be a customer given Sec(AS)'s role as the MOD focal point for this subject, and what 'shared resources' might be used to implement the plan. Sec(AS) has neither staff nor money for this purpose and, I think, DAO is similarly constrained.

3. I am sorry for the length of this note but we do all need to be quite clear what, as a Department, we are doing and why. We need to be very careful about expanding 'UFO' business and, thereby, sending the public a misleading message about the extent of MOD's interest. Of course, should Government policy on this issue change, we will review the extent of our involvement accordingly.

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Sec(AS) 2

CHOTS: SEC(AS) 2

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UFOs/policy6

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(70+)

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326/2

[REDACTED]

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DIST/11/10

25 Apr 97

Sec(AS)2

Copy to:

AOAD1

PSO/ACAS

DAO

Hd Sec(AS)

DI Sec

DPR(RAF)

AD/DI55

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) - POLICY

References

- A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 29 Jan 97
- B. D/DIST/11/10 dated 3 Feb 97
- C. D/DAO/1/13 dated 25 Mar 97
- D. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 2 Apr 97
- E. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 22 Apr 97

1. My apologies firstly for not responding sooner to your minutes at Ref. Unfortunately it took much longer than expected, at the time of my holding reply, to recover from a number of staff changes and to give the subject sufficient attention against other priorities. I am pleased that we should have this debate since at present there is a significant mismatch between our assumed responsibilities and our ability to resource them.

**Policy**

2. Referring to the policy stated in your initial minute (Ref A, Annex paras 1 & 2) an immediate difficulty arises over the use of the term 'UFO'. This term is discredited in some circles and I think that consistent use of UAP would be much more satisfactory. This would then avoid an immediate association with 'extraterrestrial' phenomena and the difficulty which arises in trying to distinguish whether events are 'extraterrestrial' or not, a judgement which we are strictly incapable of making. While analysis may enable MoD to identify some phenomena, those that remain are by definition 'unidentified' rather than 'extraterrestrial'.

3. You queried at Ref A, para 3a the extent of DIST interest in UFO reports. We agree that MoD's interest has to be related to defence significance but this is not solely to determine whether

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the UK ADR is breached, as implied by the parenthetical text in your Annex, para 2. DIST's role in support of customer requirements is to assess all source intelligence on foreign weapon systems and science & technology with military relevance. We have the responsibility to decide which sources are most appropriate and how they should be weighted for assessments. We regard UAP as a source, akin in some respects to human reporting not least in that the phenomena are reported by people and may not be fully appreciated or understood at the time. This intelligence interest needs to be explicitly covered in the policy statement and we propose that your Annex, para 2 should read:

'MoD's interest in 'UAP' is limited to examining reported sightings to establish if such activity might have a defence significance, viz:

- a. whether the UKADR has been breached;
- b. what intelligence is revealed on military capabilities of other countries;
- c. whether scientific and technical information of military significance is revealed.'

#### **Arrangements**

4. Referring to your Annex, para 4, in the light of the above we do not consider that MoD can have no interest in extraterrestrial matters and needs to keep an open mind on whether 'unidentified' phenomena may have significance. Additionally the lack of evidence to date in the DIS on the extraterrestrial hypothesis has to reflect the fact that we have not carried out any analysis. Effectively the UAP source is unproven for DIST purposes, a situation of concern even if we never expect it to be as reliable or valuable as other sources. Two principles therefore arise:

#### **Reports**

5. Firstly DIST needs to continue to receive reports in order to make the judgements at para 3b and 3c above. It seems probable that only credible sources are likely to provide enough information for a substantive analysis and we are therefore prepared to constrain ourselves to receive reports in the categories at Ref D, para 2.

#### **Analysis**

6. Secondly DIST needs to have an adequate system in order to reference the information. In line with developing practices for other source intelligence we need a reliable system for the retention and analysis of data. Hitherto the paper records have been much too unwieldy for effective action leading to the failing noted above. The proposed filtering of reports will reduce the volume considerably and we need to take the opportunity to initiate a database now. How we do this remains to be decided. Our resources are heavily over-bid but it seems essential that we establish the database in order to reduce subsequent analysis effort to the minimum. The extent to which we incorporate retrospective reports into the database depends on the resource costs. At best we would aim to apply the proposed filters in order to reduce the task to manageable

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proportions. Concurrently we have to decide whether it should be DIS policy to retain the other reports or rely on your own archive. I favour the latter. Once the database is established and populated we would commission a limited analysis to determine whether reports possess any intelligence, S&T value or discernible patterns (locations, features, performance) and establish the residue of significant unidentified events.

7. This requirement for a database needs to be considered alongside DAO's interests and we should aim to develop a single framework and decide how to share the responsibility for data entry.

**Action**

8. We therefore propose to:

- a. plan in conjunction with DAO and customers how to achieve the database;
- b. implement the plan, sharing resources if appropriate;
- c. conduct, in DIST, a limited analysis of events;
- d. review the situation once the database is accessible and no later than 12 months hence.

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DIST

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Dear Dr Clarke

I am pleased to hear that you and **Section 40** found our meeting helpful.

With regard to the items for discussion you sent prior to the meeting, I hope you will appreciate that **Section 40** and I are not radar experts or records officers, so in order to answer your questions as fully as possible, we consulted with our colleagues and prepared some notes to assist us. As promised at the meeting, I will write to you shortly giving full answers to all of these questions which I hope will clear up any areas that remain unclear. I will also include answers to the additional questions that were raised at the meeting. If following this, however, you have any further questions, please let me know.

I now have clearance for the release of the documents from D/DPR(RAF)326 Part A which were outstanding from your earlier request and these will be enclosed with my letter. We are still pursuing the release of enclosures 95 and 96 from D/AIR DEF/111/6/4 Part F and I will write to you separately about these. I apologise for the length of time this is taking.

Finally, if you would like to inform me of the discrepancies regarding the list of files provided at the meeting and that which was sent to you earlier this year, I will discuss this with our records department.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

11<sup>th</sup> October 2004

**From:** David Clarke [mailto:**Section 40**]  
**Sent:** 07 October 2004 10:42  
**To:** **Section 40**  
**Subject:** Meeting on 1 October

7 October 2004

Dear **Section 40** and **Section 40**

I am writing to thank you for what **Section 40** and I felt was a most interesting and productive meeting last Friday concerning our research into the MoD's interest in UFOs. We are grateful for allowing time for such a lengthy and frank discussion.

I hope that having had the chance to discuss the nature of our interest that you will have more of an insight into purpose and direction of our research.

As I was not able to record the proceedings my notes of what was said are patchy and incomplete, as I expected they would be in those circumstances.

It was my impression that during the meeting you were referring to specific written answers prepared in advance in order to provide responses to at least some of the questions. I therefore intend to send my notes to **Section 40** in the near future and request elucidation of some questions that were inadequately covered by my notes. One section of the questions (C - 'Radar detection') appeared to require a fuller response from specialist staff that was not available during the meeting.

In addition, having examined the list of files (Annexe A) provided, I have identified a number of discrepancies between this list and the list of files from 1976 to present that was supplied on request earlier this year.

I will address these points in more detail in my letter.

In the meantime thank you for your assistance and please be assured that the meeting will receive no publicity and the material provided will be used for research only.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David Clarke

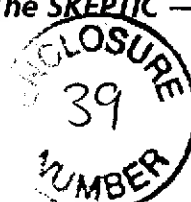
Further questions raised by Dr Clarke and Section 40 during meeting with DAS staff – 1 October 2004



Dr Clarke – Will files that are currently held at TNA, but are not yet available to the public (ie less than 30 years old) be released on 1 January 2005?

Section 40 – Can radar see balloons and if not, has the MOD considered that terrorist may use balloons to infiltrate UK airspace.





# Britain's Roswell?



Would the release of official documents relating to the Rendlesham Forest incident reveal that a UFO really landed? Dr David Clarke investigates.

THERE ARE TWO basic categories of UFO-lore: alien abductions and conspiracies. Central to the UFO-lore is belief in a conspiracy by "the Government" – and primarily those of the USA and UK – to withhold the "secret truth" from the general public. This "truth" being an admission that the authorities have proof of the alien presence on earth, in the form of the wreckage of a spacecraft and the bodies of its crew. The ultimate expression of this modern legend is the Roswell incident, but the *idea* of an official cover-up has become widespread in popular culture. The "landed Martians" is such a well known story that it was included in Professor Jan Brunvand's list of modern legends about Governments in his book, *The Choking Doberman*.

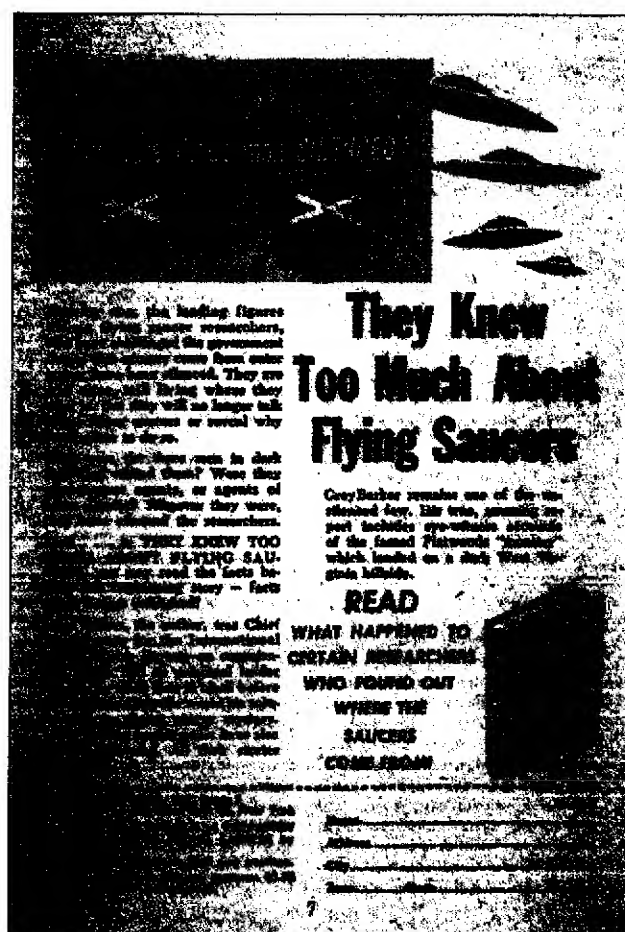
... there are similarities between UFO cover-up narratives and modern legends such as the Vanishing Hitch-hiker

Brunvand says he received a lot of angry letters for comparing UFO cover-ups with urban legends. Indeed, many "serious UFOlogists" are horrified at attempts to study these stories as the modern equivalents of fairy tales and ancient legends. However, there are similarities between UFO cover-up narratives and modern legends such as the Vanishing Hitch-hiker: stories heard as rumour and gossip. Those who pass on the story believe it really happened to a friend of a friend, and the story is given immediacy and legitimacy by the inclusion of 'real' names and places. With the arrival of the Internet, new versions spread with dizzying speed around the world, spawning new variations upon the original theme.

While Roswell is the seminal story, the Rendlesham incident is often cited as 'Britain's Roswell.' They are composed of two distinct entities: the popular myth and the few certain facts. In both cases, the two constituents have taken an independent life of their own, and continue to grow apart in ever more distant directions.

Central to the Rendlesham incidents is the testimony of a group of USAF security policemen who reported mysterious lights outside the perimeter of RAF Woodbridge, in Suffolk, on two occasions in December 1980. The most senior officer was USAF Lt Col (later

Col) Charles Halt, who was the Deputy Base Commander of RAF Woodbridge. It was Halt who prepared an official memorandum summarizing these incidents for the attention of the British Ministry of Defence (MoD). At that time, Woodbridge and its twin base at Bentwaters were tenanted by USAF as part of their air defence responsibilities in Europe. Halt was, at face value, an experienced officer who was held in high regard by his superiors.



Conspiracy theories have long been one of the basic categories of UFO-lore

## The Ministry of Defence and the Rendlesham incident

UFOlogists first learned that a UFO incident had occurred in the forest adjoining the twin RAF bases at Bentwaters-Woodbridge early in 1981. Although the bases were loaned to the United States Air Force (USAF) responsibility for events offbase – and indeed defence of surrounding UK airspace – rested with the MoD. Almost immediately, speculation was rife in the



*Is "the Government" really withholding the "secret truth" from the public concerning crashed UFOs?*

UFO community about an official cover-up.

In 1980 an air staff secretariat known as Defence Secretariat 8 (DS8) were the only Government agency officially acknowledged as having an interest in UFO reports. Policy documents released at the Public Record Office (PRO) reveal that UFOs were the lowest priority among the many other operational duties handled by DS8. A single member of staff (usually an Executive Office or Higher Executive Officer, both junior posts) spent a small proportion of his or her time examining reports received, purely for evidence of "defence significance" (i.e. for evidence that the UFOs were intruder aircraft). Essentially this policy remained unchanged since 1958 when DS8's predecessor S4 (Air) accepted responsibility for responding to all inquiries concerning UFOs. On accepting the burden, a senior civil servant suggested that in response to questions on the subject they should "for the most part be politely unhelpful."

There has been much speculation in UFO circles that DS8 and its successors was merely a "shop window" for a more covert MoD investigation team. PRO records suggest this perception is the result of a misunderstanding. Since 1958 S4 (Air) and later DS8 routinely copied all the reports they received to two other military and scientific branches of MoD. These are a defence intelligence unit, DI 55, and an RAF Ground

Environment branch who are responsible for the air defence radar. Records show that neither were interested in UFOs outside of a limited defence remit, and rarely made inquiries of their own in recent years.

The MoD has historically said little or nothing in public concerning the extent and nature of their UFO investigations. Their policy of playing down the subject was in sharp contrast with the USAF, who maintained a highly public UFO project (Blue Book) until 1969. Even after the closure of Blue Book, American UFOlogists were able to use their country's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to obtain access to documents produced by a variety of official agencies. It was *via* the US FOIA in 1983 that a copy of Col Halt's memo was obtained by an American UFOlogist, and released into the public domain.

Britain is set to receive a partial FOIA in January 2005. Until recently, it was impossible to obtain information from the MoD concerning what they did, or did not, know about specific UFO reports. The Ministry maintained that all correspondence with members of the public was confidential, and files could only be released after the 30 years had passed under the Public Record Act. Under the current '30 year rule' files on the Rendlesham Forest incident would not have been made public until 2011.

When UFOlogist Jenny Randles, with Brenda Butler and Dot Street, began to investigate the story early in 1981, they were informed that Halt's report was "passed to staff concerned with air defence matters who were satisfied that there was nothing of defence interest in the alleged sightings." From 1981 until 2001 this bland statement remained the standard official response to all inquiries about the incident. While adequate for media and public consumption, it encouraged some UFOlogists to believe a cover-up was under way.

As Britain did not have a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), little progress could be made with the Ministry of Defence until very recently. In 1994 a Code of Practice for Access to Government Information was introduced that provided limited access to material closed under the 30-year rule. Paradoxically, although the UFOlogists who were promoting the case claimed they were determined to discover "the truth" about Rendlesham, until 2001 no one made use of the new legislation to request access to official records. During the research for my book *Out of the Shadows* (Clarke & Roberts, 2002), I made an application under the Code for access to records that were relevant to the case.

In May 2001 the contents of an MoD Air file – 150 pages in length – were released. The file was unclassified and contained nothing 'secret' or 'top secret' as the UFOlogists had claimed. Five documents were initially withheld, two on the grounds of "defence, security and international relations" and three briefing documents because they contained "internal opinion, advice, recommendation and deliberation." Speculation was immediately rife within the UFO community about the nature of their contents. One magazine editor declared they were withheld because they contained "top secret" information about the case, or revealed the much sought-after "smoking gun."

All five documents have now been released on appeal, the first two in October 2001 and the remaining briefings early in 2003. They contained nothing remotely "top secret" and the reasons for their retention had more to do with civil service bureaucracy than they had with the desire to conceal any "secret truth." Their significance lay in the mystery that surrounded their content.

## The Smoking Gun?

Jenny Randles acknowledges that the file "tells us much more about the MoD than it does about the events in Rendlesham Forest." A small amount of material relates to the official investigation of Halt's report – if it can be so described – between 1981 and 1983. The vast majority of its content consists of long and often tedious correspondence between Sec(AS)2, the MoD secretariat which replaced DS8, and members of the public between 1982 and 1994. The later material documents the MoD's often tortuous attempts to avoid answering specific questions and its desire to avoid unwelcome publicity on the subject.

The file contains evidence that the MoD were not officially aware of the incident until DS8 received a copy of Lt Col Halt's memo, forwarded by the British



*While the alleged UFO crash at Roswell is the seminal story, the Rendlesham incident is often cited as 'Britain's Roswell'.*

base commander, early in January 1981. By the time action was taken – in the form of circulating the paperwork to other branches – a month had passed and "the scent was cold." In February checks were made with the radar cameras at Eastern Radar (RAF Watton) and the Central Reporting Centre at RAF Neatishead in Norfolk. This found "no entry in respect of unusual radar returns or other unusual occurrences."

Unfortunately, on both occasions the MoD were reliant upon the dates of 27 and 29 December for the UFO events in Rendlesham Forest supplied by Col Halt in his memo. Both dates were incorrect, a mistake that could have been easily rectified. All the evidence suggests no follow-up request was ever made to Halt or

his USAF superiors by the MoD. This lack of official interest was confirmed by the Group Captain Neil Colvin responsible for Air Defence at MoD in 1981. In a letter dated 3 February 2003 he wrote: "I remember the alleged sightings by US airmen at Bentwaters [sic]. I recall that we could not explain them but were very sceptical of the reports. We were not privy to the actual evidence of the sightings by the personnel concerned, nor did we have the opportunity to interview the individuals involved."

### Cover-up or Cock-up?

Possibly the most astounding revelation contained in the file is that it was not until 1983 – two years after the events – that the MoD obtained the correct dates. These were supplied not by the USAF but came from a member of the public! Shortly after Halt's memo was published by the *News of the World* astronomer Ian Ridpath made inquiries with Suffolk Police and was able to confirm from their records the correct date for the initial sighting by the airmen. Ridpath wrote to advise DS8 on 14 November 1983 that police had first been called to the scene in Rendlesham forest at 4.11 am on 26 December 1980. He added: "They said that all they could see was the the lighthouse [at Orfordness]. They were called out again at 10.30am on Dec 26 to examine the reported landing marks. There seems little doubt that the date of Dec 27 given in Col. Halt's letter is wrong. This also casts doubt on the second date he gives for the later events."

As a result of this, DS8 wrote to the RAF Base Commander, Squadron Leader Donald Moreland, asking if he could re-check the dates. Moreland's reply, dated 25 November 1983, compounded the errors and demonstrated the complete lack of interest the MoD had in the events of 1980. He wrote: "The incident is now almost 3 years old and no one here remembers it clearly. All we have is Lt Col. Halt's letter dated 13 January 1981."

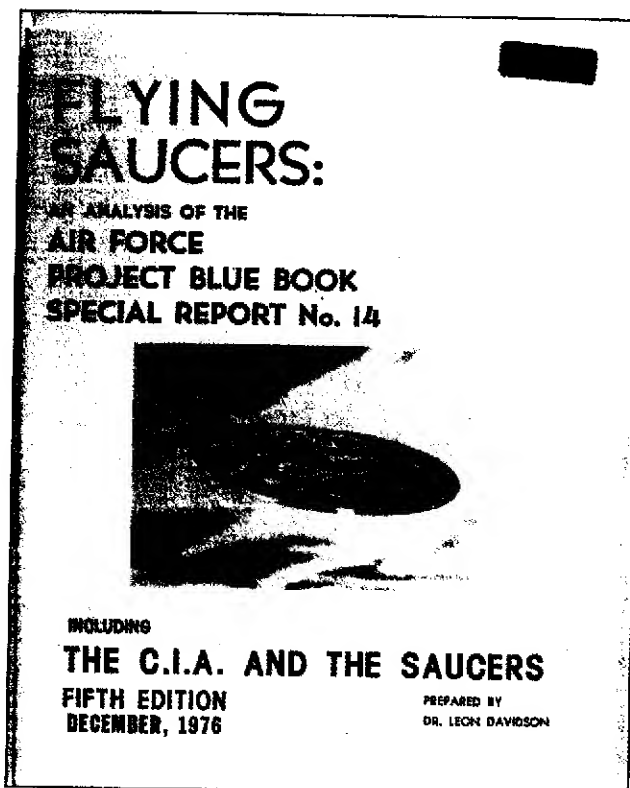
This was hardly the "smoking gun" imagined by the UFOlogists. If an event of world-changing status had occurred at the base just two years earlier it was odd that "no one here remembers it clearly."

A similar lack of interest related to claims of higher than expected levels of radiation recorded by Col. Halt in the area of the forest visited by the UFOs. Early in 1981 the MoD asked its defence intelligence specialists to comment on the data recorded in Lt Col. Halt's memo, but made no attempt to establish independent confirmation of them. R.C. Moorcroft at DI 52, responding to DS8 on 23 February 1981 to the question, noted: "Background radioactivity varies considerably due to a number of factors ... If you wish to pursue this further I could make enquiries as to natural background levels in the area." There is nothing to suggest any further action was taken.

The radioactivity issue was not raised again until

1994 when Nick Pope, who was then Executive Officer at Sec(AS) 2, took the matter up with Giles Cowling at the Defence Radiological Protection Service, a branch of the Government's Defence Evaluation Research Agency (DERA). Pope's hand-written notes of his discussion with Cowling, dated 15 April 1994, form the last enclosure in the file. Pope – who subsequently described these notes as "the first and only official investigation into this aspect of the case" – ends with the comment "The level of 0.1 is completely harmless."

Oddly, in the light of his own hand-written reservations, by 1996 Pope was describing the alleged radiation traces as "the most tangible proof that something extraordinary happened there [Rendlesham Forest.]"



*The USAF's highly public Project Blue Book stands in sharp contrast to the British Ministry of Defence's attitude of playing down any interest in UFOs*

### 'UFO Lands in Suffolk – that's official!'

In October 1983 the *News of the World* broke the story contained in Lt Col. Halt's memo and the MoD Press Office began to receive calls from the world's media. DS8 prepared what it called a "Defensive Press Line" anticipating the questions that might be asked. The most amusing comment noted that the MoD and USAF "both referred callers to the other ... [this] will have done nothing but confirm suspicions held in UFO circles that we are engaged in a cover-up."

When in 1984 the retired head of DS8, Ralph Noyes, contacted his former colleagues to ask for clarification of their position he had to send two reminders before receiving a standard reply. This delay con-

tributed to Noyes' increasingly public pro-UFO stance and by 1987 he came to believe that the MoD had indeed lied about the incident. He was joined by a former Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral Lord Hill-Norton. The Admiral, who became a UFO believer in retirement, also took up the case and reached the same conclusion. Ironically, whilst supporting the idea of a high level conspiracy, the Admiral asks us to believe that he was not part of it, and that the subject "never once crossed his desk" during his service as CDS!

The most recent MoD briefing on the Rendlesham Forest case contained in the file was compiled by Britain's self-styled Fox Mulder, Nick Pope, in 1994. In this Pope followed the standard MoD line that "no evidence was found of any threat to the defence of the United Kingdom and no further investigations were carried out ... no further information has come to light which alters our view that the sightings of these lights was of no defence significance ... in the absence of any hard evidence, the MOD remains open-minded about these sightings."

Pope served the standard three years as a junior officer with Sec (AS) 2 from 1991-94. After leaving this post he produced a book, *Open Skies Closed Minds* that took a pro-UFO stance. He maintains there was no cover-up of the Rendlesham incident but rather "a lack of action" by the MoD. In 2000 he provided the forward to Georgina Bruni's book on the Rendlesham incident, *You Can't Tell the People*. Although this book's author strongly believes in a cover-up by the British and US Governments, Pope failed to appreciate the contradiction in his stance. During an interview I recorded with Pope in 2001 it became clear that he had abandoned the objective viewpoint he displayed whilst working for the MoD. When asked for his current belief about what happened at Rendlesham he told us:

"As you know, despite the fact that I am a non-conspiracy theorist and a rational guy, you know that I am a believer in the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis and I will go with the ETH on this one. Am I allowed to give my answer as an extraterrestrial spacecraft? That's the answer I'm going with on this case."

## Conclusion

As the MoD maintained from the very beginning, there is nothing in the file to support claims that a cover-up had taken place to hide evidence of UFO landings in Suffolk. Rather than being a "smoking gun" the file contents chart the growth of a modern legend from birth to full maturity. As is the case with Roswell, the established facts have only a loose connection with the mythology that has grown up around the case in the UFO literature.

Folklore and UFO-lore share the same kind of evidence: the testimony of narrators describing extraordinary experiences. In UFO-lore reports made by military

witnesses, particularly senior officers, are accredited special status. The existence of official documents describing extraordinary events is the UFOlogical equivalent of the "holy grail." This is where the circular arguments that bedevil UFO-lore begin.

The UFOlogists want to know the truth about a baffling subject and because the Government is involved it is assumed, wrongly, that it must know all the answers. From the standpoint of believers in alien visitors, all that has to be done is to force the Government to release "the truth" and the UFO reality would be established to everyone's satisfaction. Unfortunately, to use the words of Daniel Webster, "There is nothing so powerful as the truth and often nothing as strange." When information is not forthcoming, or when it is released but does not provide the conclusive evidence demanded by believers, a deeper cover-up is suspected and so the argument becomes a circular one.

The idea of an official cover-up of the Rendlesham Forest UFO incident is belief-driven and can never be disproved, only proved.

## Official sources:

The MoD's policy towards UFO reports is outlined in three files available at the Public Record Office under these references:

DEFE 31/118: UFO Policy 1954-63  
DEFE 31/119: UFO Policy 1967  
AIR 2/19086: UFO Policy 1970-75

The contents of the MoD file on the Rendlesham UFO incident, file reference D(Sec)AS/12/21, has been made available online under the ministry's FOIA Publication Scheme at: [http://www.mod.uk/linked\\_files/publications/foi/ufo/ufofilepart1.pdf](http://www.mod.uk/linked_files/publications/foi/ufo/ufofilepart1.pdf)

Selected documents and analysis by the author can be found at: <http://www.flyingsaucery.com/Rendlesham/index.htm>

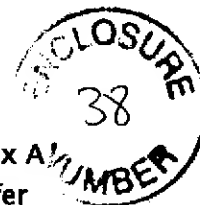
## References:

- Bruni, G. (2000). *You Can't Tell The People*. London: Sidgwick & Jackson.
- Brunvand, J. (1984). *The Choking Doberman and Other 'New' Urban Legends*. New York: W. Norton & Co.
- Clarke, D., & Roberts, A. (2002). *Out of the Shadows: UFOs, the Establishment and the Official Cover-up*. London: Piatkus.
- Pope, N. (1996). *Open Skies, Closed Minds*. London: Simon & Schuster.
- Randles, J. (1998). *UFO Crash Landing?* London: Blandford.
- Randles, J. (2002). Rendlesham Forest: The British MoD File. *International UFO Reporter* 26(3), 21-32.

 David Clarke has a Ph.D in English Cultural Tradition from the University of Sheffield and teaches in the School of English. He is the author of eight books on aspects of supernatural belief and contemporary legend, and numerous articles in journals and magazines. He has a particular interest in UFO mythology.



Copy given to Dr Charlie at meeting 1/10/06



Annex A

**UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - FILES NOT YET TRANSFERRED (i.e. awaiting transfer and/or listing) - AS AT 13 September 2004**

<b>Already open</b>		<b>105</b>
<b>To be released</b>		
2005	13	
2006	9	
2007	13	
2008	11	
2009	6	
Awaiting Transfer	9	
Awaiting Listing/transfer	34	
Stored at Feltham <sup>1</sup>	1	
Retained S3(4) <sup>2</sup>	1	
Too soon for TNA <sup>3</sup>	1	
<b>Total carried over</b>		<b>98</b>
<b>Total identified (released/unreleased)</b>		<b>203</b>

<i>The National Archives: Letter Code and piece number</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description of piece</i>	<i>Former reference</i>
<b>DEFE 13 Private Office Papers</b>			
1184	1977	Richard Luce MP; J Glover - UFOs (ALTHOUGH PREPARED FOR TNA FILE HAS BEEN ISOLATED DUE TO ITS STORAGE WITH FILES PREVIOUSLY LOCATED IN OWO)	AF/JW562/77 MR/12554
Piece number to be allocated (TBA)	1976	Sir John Langford-Holt MO M J Hessessy - UFO Enquiry	AF/BJ84/76
TBA	1976	Dr Coleman JP Mr R J Whitrow - UFO Enquiry	AF/BY76/76
<b>DEFE 19 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: CENTRAL DEFENCE SCIENTIFIC STAFF and predecessors: REGISTERED FILES (CSA, AE 1 and A SERIES) and PAPERS</b>			
9	1948 - 1960	Scientific intelligence. (RETAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH S3(4) OF PRA, BUT INCLUDES DSI/JTIC REPORT NO 7 ON UFO STUDY. REPORT EXTRACTED AND RELEASED IN DEFE 44)	CSA/ALPH/51
<b>DEFE 24 Defence Secretariat: Registered Files (DS Series)</b>			
1289	Apr - Aug 78	UFO Reports edited copies	D/DS8/75/2/2E
1290	Aug - Oct 78	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/2F
1291	Jan - Mar 78	UFO Reports	D/DS8/75/2/3D
1292	Sep - Oct 78	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3G

<sup>1</sup> One file, although prepared for TNA, has been temporarily relocated to Feltham as part of a consignment of files contaminated with asbestos.

<sup>2</sup> Although DEFE 19/9 is retained the DSI/JSTI Report NO 7 has been extracted (and replaced with a copy) and released as DEFE 44/119.

<sup>3</sup> Rendlesham Forest occurrence (1980-96) - file already placed in Publication Scheme.



		(1289 - 1292 Not yet transferred - due for release 2009)	
TBA	1977	UFO Reports: Reports and correspondence, Oct-Dec 1977	D/DS8/2/3C
TBA	1977	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/1B
TBA	1977-78	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/1C
TBA	1978	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3E
TBA	1978	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3F
TBA	1978	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3H
TBA	1978	Ditto (TBA TNA class & piece numbers - due for release 2007/08)	D/DS8/75/2/3J
TBA	1978	UFO: Parliamentary correspondence	D/DS8/2/3 Pt A
TBA	1979	UFO reports and correspondence	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt F
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt H
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt G
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt H
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt J
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt K
TBA	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt A
TBA	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt B
TBA	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt D
TBA	1979	TV discussion on UFOs	D/DS8/75/6 Pt A
TBA	1979	Satellite Debris	D/DS8/75/7 Pt A
TBA	1980	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt L
TBA	1980	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt M
TBA	1980	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt A
TBA	1980	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt B
TBA	1981	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt A
TBA	1981	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt B
TBA	1982	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt C
TBA	1982	General, briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt D
TBA	1983	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt E
NOT FOR TNA (YET)	1980-96	UFOs Report of sighting Rendlesham Forest, December 1981 Not for TNA yet - but file has been released under CODE and placed in FOI Publication Scheme	D/Sec(AS) 12/2/1
TBA	1983	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt.
TBA	1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt I
TBA	1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt F
TBA	1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt G
DEFE 31 DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE STAFF: REGISTERED FILES			
177	?	UFO's: incidents	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 21
178	?	Ditto	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 22
179	?	Ditto	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 23
180	?	Ditto	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 24
181	?	Ditto (177 -181 due for release 20107) NOT YET TRANSFERRED TO TNA (as at Jun 04)	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 25

**MISSING FILES: After an extensive search of Hayes, Records1 and DAS [although Hayes state that items 1-5 with Records1]**

<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1?</b>	1976	M Heseltine	AF/JW221/76
<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1</b>	1976	Nigel Lawson MP Mr Aleyne Body - UFO	AF/JW260/76
<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1?</b>	1976	R Hattersley Esq Mr R Park - UFO	AF/JW270/76
<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1?</b>	1977	John Ellis - UFOs	MR/122505
<b>Hayes?</b>	1979	Unidentified Flying Object	MR/122433
<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1?</b>	1980	UFO reports & correspondence	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt G

**Note:**

**Items 1-5 - if located to be assigned to DEFE 13**

**Item 6 - if located to be assigned to DEFE 24**

**Notes for Dr Clarke's visit to the MOD on 1 October 2004**



**Section (A) MOD Policy and UFOs**



1) Which documents / briefings form the basis for current policy?  
What is the earliest dated document currently used as the bases for policy?

As far as I am aware the MOD's policy on UFOs has changed little over the years and has generally been based on two areas of interest. The first, to see if the reports provide any evidence that UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised aircraft and secondly, to see if they contained any information of value about the performance and threat of foreign weapons systems, nuclear, chemical and biological warfare programmes and technologies and emerging technologies. This policy remained until December 2000 when the DIS decided that as they had received reports for 30 years without any revealing any valuable information, that they no longer wish to see them.

The earliest surviving UFO policy file dates from 1970-71 and is already open to the public at The National Archives. The earliest held by DAS dates from 1985 and is stored at Hayes (*we have recalled the file*). The MOD holds policy files in MB from 1995 to date.

2) Outline of working relationship of the departments / branches responsible for dealing with UFO matters the process whereby MOD receives and investigates reports.

**Background**

*Dr Clarke may ask how we determine which reports we refer to **Section 40** do not wish to get into specific details about credible witnesses if we can help it.*

There are now only two Departments involved with processing UFO reports. The first of these is DAS who is the MOD focal point for matters relating to UFOs and the other is the air defence experts whose expertise we call upon on occasion for advice. All UFO reports are handled by DAS and are referred to the air defence staff only where DAS feels there may be something of interest to them.

3) What factors lay behind DIST decision of October 2000 that they are not interested in receiving reports?

DIS staff decided in late 2000 that as they had looked at UFO reports for 30 years and none had ever revealed any useful information to them, they no longer wished to see them.

4) How far are current DAS personnel aware of the past involvement of the MOD in UFO matters and how they got involved (is there any form of history describing which secretariat was responsible for the subject in the past, etc?).

The MOD has only a very limited interest in UFO sightings and current staff do not study the history of the MOD's involvement in UFO matters, nor do they need to in order to process sighting reports. When we are asked questions about the MOD's past involvement in these matters we examine any surviving files of the period in order to give as accurate a reply as possible.

5) Would it be possible to contact previous incumbents of S4(Air), DS8 etc for interviews as part of this study?

No. Civil Servants move posts every few years and it is for the present incumbent to answer questions relating to these matters.

6) Reasons why MOD are reluctant to take part in public discussion of UFO matters or to provide a "spokesperson" for media?

The MOD's interest in UFO sightings is limited to the defence of UK airspace from hostile air activity, not the exploration of space or the search for life on other planets. Clearly there are those who refuse to believe this and wish instead to believe that the MOD is covering up knowledge of alien activity. No amount of public discussion or debate is likely to change this view and the MOD does not have the time or resources to get involved in such activity on a subject which is of such limited interest. If the media do have any questions, they should contact the MOD Press Office as they would on any other defence issue.

7) MOD Publication Scheme and UFOs: what factors led the MOD to accept there was a "public interest" in the subject and how they intend to address this.

The MOD has been aware that there is a public interest in UFO matters for a number of years. Until the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is introduced in January 2005 all MOD files are subject to the Public Records Act 1998 and are generally closed from public viewing for a period of 30 years after the date of the last enclosure. The Code of Practice on Access to Government Information was an open government initiative introduced in 1994 (revised in 1997) to encourage the provision of information unless its disclosure would be harmful. Until the introduction of the FOIA there is no statutory obligation on Government departments to release information.

As Dr Clarke will be aware, the MOD has been responding to requests for information on UFOs in accordance with the Code. When the MOD Publication Scheme was launched in 2002 this gave us the opportunity to

make some of this information more widely available.

8) What is the MOD's view of former incumbents of the 'UFO Desk' giving media interviews as de facto 'MOD spokesman' when the opinions expressed conflict with those of the department? This question refers to your letter to **Section 40** of 17 November 2003 where you state that the Ministry is keen to "ensure that any personal viewpoint is not presented as MOD policy".

Background

*He is referring to my letter where we refused **Section 40** the background papers to the clearance of Nick Pope's book and explained the clearance process. What we actually said was "I must stress that this process is not designed to stop individuals expressing their personal views, even if these differ from those of the MOD, but rather to prevent the release of information which would be inappropriate for the reasons stated and to ensure that any personal viewpoint is not presented as MOD policy."*

*I think we should be careful not to discuss Nick personally with him. We have refused **Section 40** these documents under the Code and I do not wish to get into a public slanging match about him.*

You are obviously referring to Nick Pope and we do not wish to discuss any correspondence or discussions between the department and Mr Pope as this is a personal matter. However, as explained to **Section 40**, the MOD does not stop individuals expressing their personal views.

9) Nick Pope frequently refers to his time at the UFO Desk as being part of "The Project". Was this term ever used for MOD UFO investigations, formally or informally?

No. We have no knowledge of this term ever having been used.

10) Does the role that Nick Pope occupied still exist? Is there an unclassified role description of that post available?

Yes. **Section 40** now performs the UFO desk duties previously done by Nick Pope. **Section 40**'s official title is Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information and handling UFO reports and correspondence is one element of this post.

11) Why in 1995 did Sec(AS)2a **Section 40** inform a member of the public that RAF Rudloe Manor / Flying Complaints Flight acted as "a co-ordination point" for UFO reports received by the RAF prior to 1992? Why has this matter been previously denied by previous incumbents of Sec(AS)2a?

**Section 40**'s statement in 1995 was correct. Until 1992 the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF), based at RAF Rudloe Manor, was the central co-ordination point for any "UFO" reports made to RAF stations (from whatever source, i.e. members

of the public or service personnel). Its function was simply to record details and pass the reports directly to Sec(AS)2a. No action was taken on the reports by staff in the FCF. The FCF no longer have any involvement in the central collection of "UFO" reports made to air force bases. I do not know why this would have been denied by previous incumbents of Sec(AS)2a but if Dr Clarke would like to show us a specific example we could look at our files to see if there was an explanation for that.

#### Section (B) FOIA and archive material

1) The future of Defence Intelligence files subject to asbestos contamination – what other subject areas are affected?

The Old War Office basement provided accommodation for the storage of files from three MOD branches; the Defence Intelligence Staff: the Departmental Records Officer (on behalf of the whole MOD) and the Air Historical Branch. All of the affected files have now been removed to another defence facility and a Project Board has been set up to consider options for the future of this information. No decisions have been made at this time.

2) Future preservation of UFO files and destruction of files – possibility of storage in electronic formats.

#### Background

*We have to be careful here. Before 1967 UFO files were destroyed just like any other MOD files (probably after 5 years). DAS (and predecessor branches) have said for a number of years that since 1967, because of the public interest in the subject, "UFO report files have been routinely preserved". We have no surviving policy files of this period so we do not know exactly what was agreed in 1967 or between whom. Section 40 knows of no documented agreement or instruction either internally or with the National Archives which says that UFO files will automatically be preserved and as far as he is concerned they will go through the normal review process and may/ or may not be selected for preservation. I can explain the review process further to Dr Clarke if necessary but we may have to admit that we do not know exactly what this statement meant. Since my time here we have tried to preserve all we can on UFOs but Section 46 strongly recommended that we do not tell Dr Clarke that everything will automatically be preserved.*

All MOD files are reviewed by the Departmental Record Officer at various times during their life and can be destroyed depending on whether they are considered to be of continuing administrative / historical value. Any that are selected for possible preservation in TNA are put on the list for TNA approval but it is up to them whether they are accepted. As for electronic files, it is too soon to consider preservation at The National Archive as electronic files are only just being created.



3) How applications for access to UFO files held by MOD and MOD archives will proceed after January 2005 under FOIA.

Under the FOIA requests for information must be made in a permanent form (ie letter or e-mail, not telephone) and must contain a name and postal address for a reply. Responses will be handled in a similar way to Code requests.

4) Status and titles of files currently in process of transfer from the MOD to TNA – possible dates of transfer etc.

Background

**Section 40** has confirmed that we can release his table of files not yet transferred to TNA. He has amended it to include headings as requested.

Here is a table of UFO files which are either due for transfer and /or are due for cataloguing. The process of selection, cataloguing and transfer can be a lengthy process and largely depends on TNA so we are unable to give dates of when they will be fully available. I suggest Dr Clarke keeps an eye on TNA catalogue and then contacts them about when the documents will be available.

5) Issue of payment for processing of files subsequently made available via MOD publication scheme.

Under the Code there is a charging regime. This was designed to ensure that while providing information requested, we are not creating an extra burden on the taxpayer. As Dr Clarke will be aware the Code says that the Department will provide the first four hours of work on any request free and then there will be a charge of £15 an hour for each hour (or part thereof) after that. This fee is not refundable.

The Information Commissioner encourages Departments to make frequently requested information more widely available via the Publication Scheme and it is therefore possible that some of the information Dr Clarke has requested in the past, will eventually appear in the Publication Scheme. We have no intention to refund any fees paid for the release of information early under the Code. The fees regime under the FOIA has not yet been finalised.

6) Status of air intelligence and scientific intelligence files currently withheld under Section3(4) of the Public Record Act in context of FOIA.

Section3(4) of the PRA allows Government departments (with the permission of the Lord Chancellor) to retain records in the department beyond the 30 year

point, where the record has been selected for TNA but contains information still too sensitive for release. All of the DIS records which currently fit this description are subject to asbestos contamination. If these records are requested under the FOIA and there is no process in place to handle them safely, Health and Safety will be cited as grounds for non-compliance with the FOIA. Records retained under Section 3(4) after 1 January 2005 (which have not been contaminated) will be subject to the FOIA and can only be withheld in accordance with an FOIA exemption.

7) Possible location of pre-1962 UFO records: the issue of "missing files" that are actually misplaced within other files with titles that do not reflect their UFO content.

The department does not hold any UFO files which date before 1962. Any surviving DAS files of this period are already open at TNA. Of course it is always possible that documents may have been placed on inappropriate or seemingly unrelated files in the past and that those files have been retained in the Department for more than 30 years, but we have no way of identifying such documents, if indeed they exist. Our records staff are aware of the public interest in UFOs and look out for any UFO related documents when reviewing the files. Dr Clarke will recall that this is how Report No.7 came to light.

8) Missing Records: The possible file location of the 1955 report on "Flying Saucers" by DDI(Tech) to ACAS(I) referred to in Parliamentary papers of Major Sir Patrick Wall held at Hull University?

Info-Records 1 have confirmed that Dr Clarke has requested this in the past and he can confirm that the Departmental Records organisation does not hold any relevant file.



#### Section ( C ) Radar systems and detections of UFOs

1) Is it not a matter of concern that radar systems are contrived to ignore returns outside the parameters of known aircraft technology?

No, because there is currently no suggestion or credible evidence (either here in the UK or from the international community) that there is any extra-terrestrial activity that poses a threat to UK national security.

2) Does MOD maintain separate records of unidentified radar incidents and which department performs analysis of these?

No, MOD does not maintain separate records of unidentified Air Defence radar incidents. This is due to the fact that there are no known incidents of the Air Defence radar or the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) detecting any object whose origin could not be explained. Air Defence radar

plot data is archived for 30 days before it is overwritten. This is a flight safety requirement and is not related to concerns about unexplained radar sightings. BMEWS radar data is archived for 10 days before being overwritten. If radar operators did have any concerns the radar could be 'played back' and analysed by the local operational and technical subject matter experts. If this proved inconclusive, the data could be passed to specialist radar technical experts or to the radar manufacturer. However, no such incidents have been recorded so this procedure has never been needed to be formalised or utilised.

3) Given ambiguous nature of unidentified radar incidents from 1950s why were details records from this period destroyed?

The MOD is only required to keep records until the desk officers responsible for the subject believe that they have no further administrative or operational value. As there has never been any suggestion or credible evidence that there was any extra-terrestrial activity that posed a threat to national security, the records would probably have been destroyed under normal 'housekeeping' guidelines.

4) How many such incidents on record in recent years & what action taken?

There are no records of any unidentified radar incidents in recent years.

#### Section (D) UFO Incidents

1) Rendlesham Forest incident: a) what specific factors led to release of the file; b) to whom was it first released; c) when will the original file be available for scrutiny at TNA?

As Dr Clarke will be aware, he made a request under the Code for a copy of the file on the Rendlesham Forest incident and it was released to him. He was the first person to receive these documents. Due to publicity about the release of the file, several others then requested a copy of the released documents. When the Publication Scheme was launched in November 2000 we saw this as an opportunity to make these documents more widely available. Files can be reviewed at any time during their life, but can only be held in the Department for a maximum of 30 years after the latest enclosure. The latest enclosure on the Rendlesham file is dated 1994 so the file could be reviewed at the 25 year point (if not sooner) and if selected for TNA may be available at TNA anytime after 2019.

2) Photographic cases: what (if any) criteria do they apply to decide whether or not they should examine a photo?

#### Background

He may be getting at **Section 40** photograph which **Section 40** asked JARIC to look at for us. I do not think we should mention that, unless he

brings it up, then we can say this was a one off because of the lengths Section 40  
Section 40 had gone to.

We do not receive many photographs, but any that are sent to us are shown to our air defence experts to see if they show anything of interest to them.

3) Reports by Civil Aviation pilots: how many in recent years and what procedures are followed to investigate these.

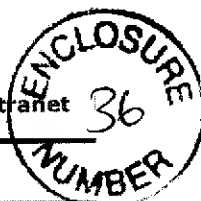
All reports are filed in the order in which they are received, regardless of the source of the report. We do not keep separate records of those from civil pilots. Any received from civil pilots would be passed to our air defence experts to see if they judge that they contain anything of defence significance.

4) Reports by Air Force & other personnel: How many in recent years?

As above separate records are not kept.

5) Total numbers and most likely explanation for UFO reports received within last three years.

Total number of reports 2001= 203  
2002 = 100  
2003 = 99  
2004 = 68 (*up to end of Sept*)



My Site Defence Intranet

Head Office Home

Topics

Announcements

Business Areas

Teams

Guidance



## Head Office

Services and Facilities



All sources

### Current Location

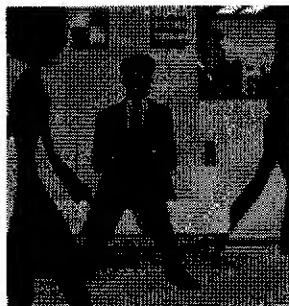
Head Office Home

Announcements

Services and  
Facilities

### Actions

Add Link to listing



## Online Visitor Notification System

A new online visitor notification system has been launched to make the notification and management visitors to Main Building much easier to manage.

A new on-line visitor booking system has been launched that allows you to easily book visits to the building directly from your desktop. The new online system replaces the temporary paper based system that was previously in operation and makes life much easier for people who receive visitors in the building.

Please use this link to access the Amey Intranet site and follow the simple instructions to visit into Main Building. On arrival at reception your visitor will be asked to show identification, have their photograph taken and be issued with their pass. The new system will ensure that your visitors are dealt with quickly and professionally, which means less hanging around at reception.

The web facility allows you to notify Security Staff of expected visitors to the building and the status of all of our notifications. *(Please note that notification does not mean a visitor is not cleared for entry. In certain cases, only when Security action has been completed will your visitor be allowed to enter the building. On receipt of your visitor notification the system will clearly indicate which visitors have been automatically cleared for entry and which have not.)*

**Visitors should be booked in at least 24 hours in advance.**

Dr Clarke & [Section 40] notified to security

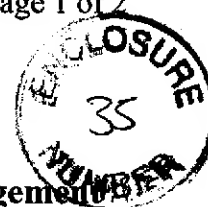
Dr Clarke Visitor No. 5026 Visit No. 6935

[Section 40]

Visitor No. 5027 Visit No. 6936

[Section 40]


30/9/04



This Page Last  
Updated:  
Tuesday, 07  
October 2003 10:32

**JSP**  
**441**

**Defence Records Management**  
**Manual**  
**Chapter 5 Annex A**

 Queries,  
Suggestions, etc.

## **Example of Records likely to warrant Permanent Preservation**

### **1. Documents/Files**

- containing Top Secret or Codeword material.

### **2. Documents/Files**

- containing information on important scientific/technical developments.

### **3. Documents/Files**

- which have been used by Official Historians or have been marked for retention by them.

### **4. Documents/Files**

- that illustrate the formation/evolution of Defence Policy or significant developments in the relationship between MOD and other organs of Government, or other national or international authorities.

that show the authority under which MOD has exercised a function.

that contain important decisions relating to the organisation, disposition or use of the Armed Forces

that show the reasons for important decisions or actions or provide precedents.

that could help the Government to establish, maintain, or control a legal claim or title

that reflect Law Officers opinion on any subject.

### **5. Documents/Files and other records**

- of the setting up, proceedings and reports of committees, working parties and study groups.
- of the introduction/consideration of new types of weapons and equipment.
- of important trials and exercises.
- of the introduction of new types of uniforms, clothing etc



of the formation, organisation, reorganisation, redesignation or disbandment of units.

of notable courts martial and other legal matters.

of the occupation of historic buildings and sites of archaeological interest.

of matters of significant regional or local interest which are unlikely to be documented elsewhere.

**REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**

of matters of significant regional or local interest.

## 6. Reports

- of significant operations, intelligence, organisational and logistic matters.

## 7. Histories

- produced by Service units etc.

## 8. Standing Orders

- and similar instructions of Commands, Agencies, Establishments etc.

## 9. Diaries

- journals, logs etc providing an insight into particular operations or activities of wide interest

## 10. Records

relating to famous or infamous people.

**Note:** In assessing whether a file merits passage to DG Info-Records with a recommendation that it be considered for permanent preservation it is important to remember that it is the **responsibility of the unit to identify and forward such files. If your file merely contains copies of material relating to a topic for which another business unit has lead responsibility the file, should not be forwarded.**

**REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**



Home



Back to Contents



Back to Chapter 5



Top of Page

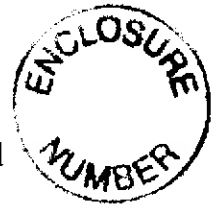


Index

Last updated 07/10/03


# JSP 441

## Defence Records Management Manual Chapter 1



This Page Last  
Updated:  
Tuesday, 07 October  
2003 10:32

## Underpinning Legislation

 Queries,  
Suggestions, etc.

- 1.1 Background
- 1.2 The Law
- 1.3 The Role of the MOD "Departmental Records Officer"
- 1.4 What Are Public Records?
- 1.5 The Importance of Records to MOD

Annex A - Freedom of Information Act 2000

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 The public records of the United Kingdom date back to the 11th century and form a rich archive which is a part of our national heritage. The great wealth of documents and other records stored at the Public Record Office (PRO) have led to its recognition as one of the most significant archives in the world.

### 1.2 The Law

1.2.1 The law on public records is set out in the **Public Records Acts of 1958 and 1967**. Public records are defined in the Acts as "administrative and departmental records belonging to Her Majesty's Government, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere". These include electronic and paper records, photographic material, film, video, and samples and models which have been made for the purpose of conveying and recording information.

1.2.2 The Public Records Act of 1958 places a responsibility on all government departments to review the records which are generated within the department, to select those which are worthy of permanent preservation and transfer them to the Public Record Office, and to destroy all records which are not selected. The 1958 Act stipulated that all surviving public records should normally be released to the public 50 years after their creation; the Public Records Act 1967 reduced that period to 30 years.

1.2.3 There are exceptions to the 30 year release rule, usually on the grounds of an ongoing administrative requirement or continued sensitivity. However, all such exceptions need to be approved by the Lord Chancellor who is the Minister responsible for public records. It is also permissible for records to be held in places other than the PRO (known as "approved places of deposit") but, again, the Lord Chancellor's approval must be obtained.

1.2.4 The **Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000** will, for the first time, give a statutory right of access to information held by public authorities. The Act also requires information to be released proactively through a Publication Scheme. The FOI Act 2000 both provides a statutory general right of access to information and requires public authorities to publish information proactively through a

Publication Scheme. TLB FOI Focal Points will constitute a centre of FOI expertise within the TLB area and form the core of a network for efficient pan-MOD handling of requests for information.

1.2.5 The FOI Act applies to all parts of MOD including the armed forces, agencies and trading funds, whether they are located in the UK or overseas. Only the special forces and any units actively providing assistance to GCHQ are outside its scope.

1.2.6 The Act introduces a general right of access to information held by public authorities and also creates an obligation for those authorities to release information proactively by adopting and maintaining a Publication Scheme. Implementation will be in two main phases. In phase one, different types of public authority will gradually be required to establish their Publication Schemes: government department Schemes must be in place by the end of November 2002. In the second phase, the right of access to information on request will become effective. All public authorities will have to honour this right from January 2005.

1.2.7 The MOD policy lead on issues relating to openness, including implementation of the FOI Act rests within DG Info with AD InfoExp-Access. For more information about FOI see Annex A and visit the DG Info Access MODWeb site.

1.2.8 The **Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA)** is the result of a European Directive on Data Protection, which requires Member States to "protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons, in particular their right to privacy with respect to the processing of personal data". All Service and civilian members of staff are bound by its provisions, which confer certain rights and responsibilities. The Act applies to all parts of the UK.

1.2.9 The DPA is about access by individuals to personal data held on them by any organisation whereas the FOI Act relates to the disclosure of information held by public authorities. Responsibility for ensuring the implementation of the DPA throughout MOD lies with the Director Claims and Legal (Finance and Secretariat). For more information about the implications of the DPA visit the CL(F&S) MODWeb site.

### 1.3 The Role of the MOD "Departmental Records Officer"

1.3.1 All Government Departments are required to appoint a "Departmental Records Officer (DRO)". The DRO is responsible for ensuring that information, both operational and administrative, is recorded and properly maintained so as to ensure that Departmental business can be conducted effectively and in line with the statutory requirements of the Public Records Acts, Freedom of Information Act, and other relevant legislation. The MOD DRO is Info Exp-Director on whose behalf day-to-day responsibility is discharged by Info-Analysis AD.

1.3.2 The DRO is responsible for MOD's records storage facilities at Hayes and Central London, for the central review and assessment of records to determine whether they merit permanent preservation, for the registry advisory service and for the conduct of records management audits.

1.3.3 The DRO is also responsible for the production of this JSP which details the minimum standards to be adhered to by all MOD business units and also identifies good records management practice.

### 1.4 What Are Public Records?

1.4.1 It is important to understand that all documents generated by government departments are public records covered by the terms of the Public Records Acts. This does not mean that all documents will be worthy of permanent preservation. There would be no logic in simply keeping

Everything. The task of each department is to select those documents which merit capture as records and to safeguard them accordingly. Subsequently decisions must be made about the length of time for which records should be retained to meet administrative needs - this must take into account such issues as legal or contractual requirements.

1.4.2 Once the administrative need to retain a record has ceased a decision needs to be made as to whether the records have historical value and merit permanent preservation in compliance with the Public Records Act. For MOD this task is undertaken by DG Info-Records, taking into account the recommendation made by the originating business unit..

1.4.3 The following definitions are helpful:

**Documents** are defined as any tangible information received or produced by the department.

**Records** are those documents that support some official activity or decision and need to be preserved for future reference.

*But remember - legally, any document produced by or held by MOD is a public record.*

## 1.5 The Importance of Records to MOD

### REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

1.5.1 The MOD and the Armed Services are large and complex organisations. Their decisions and actions affect many people, potentially over long periods. The various Business Units of MOD have an obvious need to record their decisions and actions for their own and wider MOD use. These decisions and actions are however increasingly open to legal, Parliamentary, media and personal challenge, often many years after the event. Business Units, whether it be the originator of the action or a successor branch, need to know what happened and why it is important. Selection of records for long term preservation for administrative use needs care, foresight and experience; the judgement made at this stage must also be tempered with the need for the permanent preservation of records, as mentioned above, for the national record in the PRO. Business Units are in doubt whether their existing records need to be kept for medium and long term use, advice and help should be sought from DG Info-Analysis/Records and also from the

### REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

1.5.2 Service Historical Branches have wide experience of the use of records by MOD Ministers, Business Units, the Services and also of the interests of historians, the media and the public in these records subsequent to their opening after 30 years. If in doubt, err on the side of caution and forward the material to DG Info-Records with a recommendation that it be considered for permanent preservation.



Home



Back to Contents



Top of Page



Annex 1a



Index

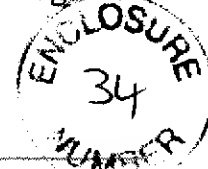
Last updated 07/10/03

② file

① Section 40

- file if you  
haven't already

Page 1 of 1



Section 40

Section 40

**From:** David Clarke [Section 40]  
**Sent:** 24 September 2004 09:28  
**To:** [Section 40]  
**Cc:** [Section 40]  
**Subject:** Meeting on 1 October 2004

24 September 2004

Dear [Section 40]

Thank you for your email communication of 23 September. I was pleased that you took the opportunity to get in touch directly in order to clarify the points to which you refer.

Firstly your understanding concerning the purpose for the meeting is correct. I am indeed involved in postdoctoral research into the social context of the UFO phenomenon in Britain from 1947 to present. The research is based at the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition (NATCECT), School of English, University of Sheffield. The records produced by the Ministry of Defence and currently available at the TNA are one of the primary sources utilised by this project. Hence my wish to discuss aspects of the subject and specifically the release of further records in a meeting with MoD staff responsible for these areas.

As regards [Section 40] he is an individual who is researching the history of individuals involved in UFO research in Britain 1950-1995 in a private capacity. His research involves both the TNA archives and oral history interviews which overlap with my own university-based project. His input provides research assistance to my project hence his presence at the meeting.

With regards to your question concerning the use of the information provided at the meeting. Firstly, my occasional use of the word "interview" was purely accidental as a result of the presence of a number of specific questions in the advance agenda I sent to [Section 40] at your request.

I am aware of the MoD policy regarding interviews and can confirm it is not my intention to obtain "an interview for publication." I share your view of the meeting as an opportunity for MoD to assist in the research that I have outlined in the second paragraph of this letter. However, in order for the meeting to be meaningful in the context of that research it is necessary for me to obtain an accurate transcript of what was said, hence my request for permission to use a recording device (a Sony CD minidisk which is standard equipment for oral history fieldwork in HEIs).

I hope these points clarify the issues you raised and look forward to meeting you and [Section 40] on 1 October. In the meantime, I would be grateful if you could let me know what decision is reached regarding the recording device.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

27/09/2004





From: **Section 40**, Assistant Director  
(Secretariat & Lower Airspace),  
Directorate of Air Staff  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Bulding  
Level 5, Zone H, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2 HB



Telephone (Direct dial) **Section 40**  
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000  
(Fax) **Section 40**  
e-mail **Section 40** @mod.uk

By e-mail:  
Dr D Clarke

**Section 40**

Your Reference

Our Reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11  
Date  
23 September 2004

*Dear Mr Clarke,*

I am aware that you have been in correspondence with **Section 40** regarding the arrangements for our meeting on 1 October. I have seen the exchanges and there are one or two points which I wanted to clarify with you before we meet.

My understanding is that you sought a meeting for the purposes of your on-going research only. I understand this relates to work at the University of Sheffield, where you are collecting material relating to the social history of the UFO phenomenon in Britain from 1947 to present. It was also, I believe, to help you 'clear up some matters where ambiguity remains and to avoid unnecessary correspondence in future'. I should be grateful if you could confirm that my understanding is correct. It would also be helpful for me to understand the role that **Section 40** plays in this.

Finally, I should like confirmation as to how you intend to use the information that we provide during the meeting. I pose the question simply because in some (but not all) of your letters you have referred to our meeting as an interview. You will be well aware why it is not the practice for officials to conduct interviews. My decision to meet with you was based on the fact that your previous exchanges with the MOD and your current research indicate you take the subject seriously. I saw the meeting as an opportunity for us to assist your research, but not to provide an interview for publication. That remains my view.

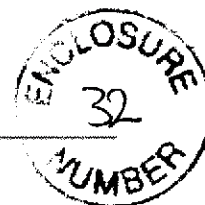
**Section 40** is still pursuing the matter of you recording the meeting with the relevant authorities, but I hope that **Section 40** will be in a position to provide a definitive answer very shortly.

Forgive me if this seems a little direct, but I felt it important for us both to clarify these issues. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**





Section 40

From: Section 40  
Sent: 23 September 2004 13:04  
To: Section 40  
Subject: RE: Section3(4) Public Records Act

Section 40

Find attached amended Annex.

I believe that you are talking about two different kinds of files, (1) files affected by asbestos, and (2) files not affected by asbestos:

- (1) **Those affected by asbestos and stored at Feltham** - there are between 4,000 and 5,000 files selected for TNA but are too sensitive to release. These are retained in accordance with S3(4) of PRA. In addition to the retained files there are approximately 60,000 files (from Records, DIS and AHB archives) affected by asbestos. These will be due for review at some future date (it is possible that some are over due for review). These will continue to be stored at Feltham pending consideration of their future by the Project Board.
- (2) **Those not affected by asbestos i.e. not previously stored in OWOB basement** - both Records and DIS are in the process of reactivating our basement stores in OWOB to enable newly received files to be archived. I very much doubt whether any Records 1 file will be of sufficient vintage (over 30-years old) to be retained in accordance with S3(4) i.e. selected for TNA but are too sensitive to release.. The same could be said for DIS as retention can only be applied for by the DRO, after review by DRO staff (Records1 staff).

As far as FOI is concerned files in (1), and assuming no process in place to permit safe handling, health and safety will be cited as grounds for "non-compliance" with FOI. If process are in place that permit MOD to respond to FOI requests we will do so.

On (2) files not affected by asbestos, whether retained or too young to be retained, will be subject to FOI.

Helpful?

Section 40

---

From: Section 40  
Sent: 23 September 2004 11:49  
To: Section 40  
Subject: Section3(4) Public Records Act

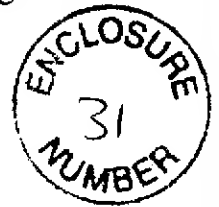
Section 40

Thanks for your help with Dr Clarke's visit. Just one other thing, I see that you say that the DI material currently withheld under Section 3(4) of the Public Records Act has been affected by the asbestos problem, but do you know what is going to happen in the future if records that are not affected by asbestos and are withheld under Section 3(4) are requested under the FOI Act?. Does the Public Records Act override the FOIA? Would we have to apply an FOIA exemption?

Dr Clarke is bound to ask, so I would be grateful for any advice you can give.

Section 40

23/09/2004

**30/01/03 - Police Investigate Filey Saucers.**

Police are quizzing UFO hunters over several incidents of lights in the sky off the east coast. Full-time re Russell Kellett has been interviewed by officers after a strange incident near Filey Brigg. And he claims fi enthusiasts have also been quizzed by officers. "It is all very strange," said Mr Kellett at his Filey home. interviewed me after I reported an experience I had at Filey Brigg last summer. "I was looking out to se suddenly saw five saucer-shaped objects flying in a row. I turned away to get my camera and the object but then I heard a bang and saw a flash and an RAF plane came flying over the area. "I phoned RAF Le and they sent the police officers round to interview me. They told me I had seen and heard a heat-seeki they are usually fired to ward off incoming missiles. And this was over a built-up area."

Source: [howard.williamson@ypn.co.uk](mailto:howard.williamson@ypn.co.uk)

**21/01/03 - UFO Hovers Over Gloucestershire.**

Residents living in the Forest of Dean, near Gloucester, UK, reported a strange hovering light above Ha Cinderford, during the early hours of Tuesday, "January 21, 2003.

Steven Taylor, 39, one of the residents who saw the light at 12:30 a.m., described the light as "very bril "It was like the light of an airplane, but nothing like a helicopter, and it had no sound. I have no idea w I couldn't hope to describe it. It was strange!" said Elizabeth Fletcher, 64," another local eyewitness.

"She added, 'It was a very strange pulsating light.'"

"I thought that something had entered my house, or that it was the police helicopter," Robin Cole said, i the UFO "looked like 'two brilliant planets that could be seen at the present moment.'"

Source: "This Is Gloucestershire for January 22, 2003".

**03/01/2003 - Joe McGonagle launches Campaign for UK National UFO Authority**

Joe McGonagle a UFO investigator well known to UFORM members, has launched a campaign for a Nati Authority here in the UK.

He says: "I am determined to raise the standards of British Ufology. To this end, I have created the "Bri of Ufologists" smartgroup. This is only a group intended to steer towards the creation of a national stanc authority, \_not\_ the authority itself. The aim of the group initially is to set an agenda for a summit meet interested parties at a date to be decided, to anticipate the pitfalls, requirements, scope, and viability of authority, and to stimulate interest in a national authority. In short, to get the ball rolling. The steering c to anyone based in the UK with an interest, either positive or negative, in the creation of such an author members are welcome to join as observers, but are respectfully requested not to play an active part in t proceedings. If you feel strongly that we either do or don't need such an establishment, I urge you to ta steering group to ensure that your views are taken into consideration. "

The URL: <http://www.smartgroups.com/groups/bfedou>

**17/12/02 - Katherine Finney's article following our December meeting.**


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## Author

## Topic



Posted - 17/09/2004 : 00:58:05



yoda



United Kingdom

101 Posts

Dave Clarke sent the following message to the ufologyinuk mail list earlier:

### "FATE OF MOD PAPERS SEALED?"

It's a revelation set to be seized upon by conspiracy mongers convinced the British Government have been hiding "the truth" about UFOs from the public. In July the MOD admitted that thousands of sensitive Cold War documents had been quarantined in plastic sacks because of fears they might have become exposed to deadly asbestos whilst stored in the basement of the War Office building at Whitehall. The files included important documents relating to British nuclear policy and defence intelligence briefings during the Cold War.

But we can reveal exclusively that among the records are 25 UFO files generated by the shadowy MOD intelligence branch known as DI55 that investigated the more bizarre reports reported to the Ministry since 1971. Historians who describe the Cold War files as "the crown jewels of contemporary history" are concerned the MOD will use the asbestos scare as an excuse to further delay their release, imminent when the Freedom of Information Act comes into force in January 2005. The MOD have told us that it is possible some of the files might have to be destroyed if the cost of preserving them safely is too high.

You would have thought this was a classic case for the Disclosure Project, with questions in Parliament and a 'save the files' campaign. So what precisely are British UFOlogists doing about it? Well this is the first they will have heard of it. It seems they are so busy organising skywatches and social events they have remained blissfully unaware of the impending threat of destruction of their own "crown jewels." And as usual it has been left to professional historians to mount a campaign to save them.

The Guardian, 27 July 2004.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk>

I have already initiated my own campaign to save these files from destruction via my MP, Helen Jackson, who intends to raise the issue with Defence Minister Geoff Hoon in Parliament in the near future. Watch this space."

There are a number of things that people can do without leaving their armchair, or posting a letter:

1. Send a message to the PM at:  
<http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/page3.asp>

This is the text of the message which I sent him:

"Dear Mr. Blair,

It has recently come to my attention that an important part of our heritage is at risk of being destroyed.

Records held by the Ministry of Defence relating to a critical period of the cold war and other records relating to the MOD handling of UFO reports have been contaminated with Asbestos, and consideration is being given to their destruction.

These records are potentially of enormous importance to historians that want to better understand military and political decisions made during a very stressful period. If they are destroyed, rumours of "cover-up" will be rampant, and the resulting cost of dealing with such accusations will exceed any cost of salvaging the documents.

Not only would this be a waste of public money, but it would also be a denial of the rights of voters to be informed the decisions made by their elected representatives and Civil Service departments.

We have already had to wait for over a quarter of a century to learn what is in these files, and it seems that we may never have the opportunity to see them at all.

Please can you take this matter up with the MOD in the national interest.

Yours sincerely,

Joe McGonagle"

2. Contact your MP online. If you don't know who your MP is, visit:

<http://www.locata.co.uk/commons/>

and enter your postcode.

In many, if not all, cases, you will be taken to a page where you can post a message to your local MP. The message which I sent was as follows:

"Security of historical government documents

Dear Ms. Walley,

A matter has come to my attention which I now wish to bring to yours as my local representative in the House of Commons.

As you may be aware, Government documents which may be of historical importance are retained, and usually released for public scrutiny after 30 years.

I have learned that a batch of documents held by the Ministry of Defence are at risk of being destroyed because they have been stored in an area contaminated by asbestos.

These documents are potentially of immense historical importance. Amongst them are records of the UK nuclear warfare strategy from a critical period of the cold war, and UFO documents. Their destruction will almost certainly result in rumours of cover-up and generate enquiries

and accusations that will cost the MOD thousands of pounds to respond to.

No doubt disposal of these files would be expensive, and I very much doubt that the cost of salvaging them for posterity would outweigh the cost of disposal plus the subsequent cost of dealing with the innuendo (warranted or not) that would also result.

Please can you exert whatever influence is at your disposal on the MOD to avert what is nearly equivalent to "the sack of Rome" in historical terms.

Yours Sincerely,  
Joe McGonagle"

### 3. Email the MOD at [public@ministers.mod.uk](mailto:public@ministers.mod.uk)

This is the message which I have just posted:

"To whom it may concern,

It has recently come to my attention that an important part of our heritage is at risk of being destroyed.

Records held by the Ministry of Defence relating to a critical period of the cold war and other records relating to the MOD handling of UFO reports have been contaminated with Asbestos, and consideration is being given to their destruction.

These records are potentially of enormous importance to historians that want to better understand military and political decisions made during a very stressful period. If they are destroyed, rumours of "cover-up" will be rampant, and the resulting cost of dealing with such accusations will exceed any cost of salvaging the documents.

Not only would this be a waste of public money, but it would also be a denial of the rights of voters to be informed the decisions made by their elected representatives and Civil Service departments.

We have already had to wait for over a quarter of a century to learn what is in these files, and it seems that we may never have the opportunity to see them at all.

I have written to the my MP and the Prime Minister about this already, and I sincerely hope that you will give this matter serious consideration before deciding to destroy such an important part of our heritage.

Yours Sincerely,

Joe McGonagle  
<full address>"

Please feel free to use any of the text above when you send your objections to your MP/the PM/ The MOD.

These documents are potentially very valuable, particularly to the UFO community.

Joe

Interested in British ufology?  
then register (free) at:

<http://www.smartgroups.com/groups/ufologyinuk>

for the latest news and views from the UK UFO scene!

**Emmie71**

UFO Spotter



United Kingdom

92 Posts

Posted - 17/09/2004 : 15:03:41

Good one Joe ;) Shall copy also.

More Vodka with that red bull....Please :-)

**Benjoepen**

M.I.B



United Kingdom

27 Posts

Posted - 18/09/2004 : 20:37:15

my message has been sent to mister blair.  
Come on now everyone must get involved

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## THINGS TO DO (22 SEPT 2004)

### Dr Clarke's visit.

(A)1. Check policy files for when the current policy was established (possibly 1991).

The earliest UFO file Policy file that is still in existence dates from 1970-71. It is already open at TNA. The earliest held by DAS 1985 and is at Hayes (we have recalled it). Of the remaining policy files that we hold in MB, the earliest dates from 1995 and our policy is unchanged since then. The only major change to how we handle UFO reports was in December 2000 when DIS decided that as they had looked at UFO reports for 30 years and they had revealed nothing of interest to them, they no longer wished to receive any reports. DAO confirmed that they were happy to continue looking at the few that we passed to them.

(B)4. Ask **Section 40** if his table of files can be released to Dr C. Ask him to add headings to the table.

**Section 40** confirmed table at Annex A can be released to Dr C. **Section 40** put headings on the table and send us the amended version.  
Table received 23 Sept 04.

(B)6. How Section 3(4) of the Public Records Act affects requests under the FOI Act. We know that all material currently withheld under Section 3(4) has been in the contaminated archive, but what if it wasn't. Check with **Section 40** **Section 40** and/or DG Info.

**Section 40** asked for advice. 22 Sept.

E-mail received and discussion with **Section 40**

Section 3(4) of the PRA allows Government Departments (with the permission of the Lord Chancellor) to retain records in the Department beyond the 30 year point where the record has been selected for TNA but it contains information that is currently too sensitive for release. All of the DIS records which currently fit this description are subject to asbestos contamination. If these records are requested under the FOIA and there is no process in place to handle them safely, Health and safety will be cited as grounds for non-compliance with the FOIA. Records retained under Section 3(4) after 1 Jan 05 (which have not been contaminated) will be subject to the FOIA and can only be withheld in accordance with an FOIA Exemption.

(D)5. Total number of UFO reports received in the last three years (2001 to end of Sept 2004). Ask **Section 40** provide.

Figures for 2001 & 2002 already held. **Section 40** to compile 2003 & 2004.

2001 = 203

2002 = 100

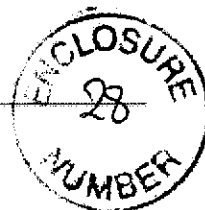
Visit - Speak to **Section 40**, tell her when the meeting is and check the following;

- Difference between a meeting and interview (are there specific rules about civil servants giving interviews?)
- What if he publishes his conversation with us and names individuals?
- What about him recording the conversation, are there any rules etc?
- Can we terminate the meeting if he starts to turn it into something other than what was agreed at the outset?

**Section 40** has advised that we should establish in writing with Dr C. some ground rules. We can say we are concerned that in his recent correspondence he is referring to this gathering as an interview and this is not what we believed it was going to be. Remind him that we do not give interviews. Ask him what he intends to do with the information. Ask him what role **Section 40** has in his research. **Section 40** does not have a problem with the conversation being taped, this is common practice in background briefings and protects us as there is an accurate record of what is said. **Section 40** send a letter to Dr C. by email- 22 Sept 2004.

Security – Check with security about the use of recording equipment in non-sensitive areas.

Message left on **Section 40** answerphone. 22 Sept.



Section 40

**From:** David Clarke [Section 40]  
**Sent:** 22 September 2004 09:59  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting, 1 October

22 September 2004

Dear Section 40

I wondered if you had the chance to discuss with Section 40 re the use of a recording device for the meeting on 1 October.

As I believe I mentioned earlier, the recorder I use (which is standard university equipment for fieldwork) is a Sony minidisk which uses small CDs and a tiny microphone. It is much more efficient than a standard tape recorder.

All my fieldwork interviews over the past five years have been recorded on this machine, which allows me to produce written transcripts afterwards. These can then be checked by interviewees and agreed for accuracy.

I look forward to hearing from you

Sincerely

David Clarke

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Section 40  
**To:** Section 40  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2004 1:58 PM  
**Subject:** Meeting, 1 October

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your message.

I will discuss this further with Section 40 when he returns from leave and then I will write to you again.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

**From:** David Clarke [mailto:Section 40]  
**Sent:** 15 August 2004 17:14  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting, 1 October

15 August 2004

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your message concerning our meeting on 1st October.

22/09/2004

NUMBERS OF "UNEXPLAINED" AERIAL SIGHTINGS REPORTED  
TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



Figures from before 1959 are not available.

N.B. The figures below relate to the number of reports, received by the Ministry of Defence, of aerial activity which was not immediately identifiable to the witness. They should not be taken to reflect sightings of "UFOs/flying saucers".

1959 - 22  
1960 - 31  
1961 - 71  
1962 - 46  
1963 - 51  
1964 - 74  
1965 - 56  
1966 - 95  
1967 - 362  
1968 - 280  
1969 - 228  
1970 - 181  
1971 - 379  
1972 - 201  
1973 - 233  
1974 - 177  
1975 - 208  
1976 - 200  
1977 - 435  
1978 - 750  
1979 - 550  
1980 - 350  
1981 - 600  
1982 - 250  
1983 - 390  
1984 - 214  
1985 - 177  
1986 - 120  
1987 - 150  
1988 - 397  
1989 - 258  
1990 - 209  
1991 - 117  
1992 - 147  
1993 - 258  
1994 - 250  
1995 - 373  
1996 - 609

1997 – 425  
1998 – 193  
1999 – 229  
2000 – 210  
2001 – 203  
2002 – 100  
2003 – 99  
2004 – 66    So far.  
2005



Loose Minute

13 September 2004

DAS-FOI



Copy to:

DI BCR-CG AD

CT and UK Ops-Airspace Integrity SO1

**BRIEFING FOR MEETING WITH DR CLARKE**

Reference; DAS-FOI email 27 August 2004 12.19

1. The reference sought advice on a number of record related issues in preparation of your meeting with Dr Clarke on 1 October 2004. I attach comments that may prove helpful during your meeting:

<p>The future of Defence Intelligence files subject to asbestos contamination - what other subject areas are affected?</p>	<p>The OWOB basement provided accommodation for the storage of files from three MOD branches: (1) the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS), (2) the Departmental Records Officer, on behalf of the whole of MOD, and (3) Air Historical Branch (AHB) small overflow store.</p> <p>It is <u>estimated</u> that approximately 65,000 files previously stored in this area have been affected by "asbestos contamination". All these files have now been removed from central London and relocated to a defence facility on the periphery of London pending a decision on what action is required to enable access to the information contained in the files. Pending this decision files are stored in plastic sacks and sealed in crates as recommended by health and safety procedures.</p> <p>A Project Board is being set-up to consider options; the Board is chaired by the DRO with representatives from DIS, The National Archives (TNA) and MOD's health and safety department. There is unlikely to be "quick fix" solution to this problem i.e. it is anticipated that the project could run for three/four years!</p>
<p>Future preservation of UFO files and destruction of files - possibility of storage in electronic formats.</p>	<p>Strongly recommend that no commitment be made to the automatic preservation of "ufo" files.</p> <p>As far as I am aware there has never been a departmental wide instruction for such files to be routinely preserved other than the fact that files from the air staff secretariat, oddments from elsewhere have been kept!</p>



	<p>Suggest that the following somewhat crude review outline may give Dr Clarke a flavour of the review activity.</p> <p>The current MOD policy is that files surviving local review (important that Dr Clarke understands that files can be and are destroyed at various stages in their life) are forwarded to one or two MOD archives under the control of the DRO. At an appropriate time files are reviewed by DRO staff to establish their continuing administrative/historical value, if files are perceived to have no value they are destroyed, but if selected for preservation they are prepared for transfer to Kew.</p> <p>As for electronic files, probably too soon to consider preservation at TNA as electronic files are only just being created, however, I anticipate a similar review arrangement.</p>
<p>Status and titles of files currently in process of transfer from MOD to TNA – possible dates of transfer etc.</p>	<p>See Annex A that provides a list of identifiable files that are due for transfer and/or are due for listing (cataloguing for TNA). Also important not to commit to the early release of files prior to 30-year point for the following reasons.</p> <p>Government departments are responsible for the review of records: in the MOD this is carried out by both branches creating the records and, for files surviving local review by DRO staff. Records selected for preservation at TNA are cleaned, assigned to a relevant TNA class (draft listed). TNA staff visit departments to check on the preparation of files for Kew, these checks include, cleaning standards, draft lists and whether file is appropriate for Kew. If TNA satisfied departments are given approximately one week's notice of the collection of records. After transfer availability at TNA is a matter for Kew, currently administrative action at TNA is estimated to be between 50–70 months after transfer.</p> <p>At any time MOD is likely to have up to 10,000 at various stages of preparation for TNA.</p> <p>Important to reemphasize that records not selected for preservation are destroyed to ensure that department holds no records older than 30 years old. Only possible to hold records for longer with the Lord Chancellor's approval.</p> <p>Final point it is not likely that TNA will arrange for a further pick-up before mid/end October 2004.</p>
<p>Status of air intelligence and scientific intelligence files currently withheld under Section 3(4) of</p>	<p>FOIA will apply to all defence records including any air intelligence and scientific intelligence files, unless specifically excluded (for example, security and intelligence agencies papers that might be held by MOD), just as it has been possible for researchers to seek the release of such</p>

<p>the Public Record Act in context of FOIA.</p>	<p>papers in accordance with the Code of Practice, since the mid-1990s.</p> <p>However, all records retained in accordance with Section 3(4) of Public Records Act, 1958 - estimated as between 4,000 to 5,000 files or extracts from files - have been affected by the "asbestos contamination" due to their storage in OWOB basement. [See also next answer]</p>
<p>Missing Records: The possible file location of the 1955 report on "Flying Saucers" by DDI (Tech) to ACAS(I) referred to in Parliamentary papers to Major Sir Patrick Wall held at Hull University.</p>	<p>Dr Clarke's papers consist of two news items from <i>Sunday Despatch</i>, a Hansard extract and a "House of Commons" note (source <i>Sunday Despatch</i>). None of these items add anything constructive to the subject of "missing records". The "missing file/report" has been sought before (by Dr Clarke) so I can say that on the information given, both previously and now, the DRO organisation does not hold any relevant file.</p> <p>Note only 4,000 to 5,000 files are retained under S3(4). Our search on this occasion not just limited to DRO archives but to DIS files previously stored in OWOB basement (DIS archives) material isolated due to asbestos contamination.</p>

## Annex A

## UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - FILES NOT YET TRANSFERRED (i.e. awaiting transfer and/or listing) - AS AT 13 September 2004

Already open		105
To be released		
2005	13	
2006	9	
2007	13	
2008	11	
2009	6	
Awaiting Transfer	9	
Awaiting Listing/transfer	34	
Stored at Feltham <sup>1</sup>	1	
Retained S3(4) <sup>2</sup>	1	
Too soon for TNA <sup>3</sup>	1	
Total carried over		98
Total identified (released/unreleased)		203

DEFE 13 Private Office Papers			
1184	1977	Richard Luce MP; J Glover - UFOs (ALTHOUGH PREPARED FOR TNA FILE HAS BEEN ISOLATED DUE TO ITS STORAGE WITH FILES PREVIOUSLY LOCATED IN OWO)	AF/JW562/77 MR/12554
TBA	1976	Sir John Langford-Holt MO M J Hessessy - UFO Enquiry	AF/BJ84/76
TBA	1976	Dr Coleman JP Mr R J Whitrow - UFO Enquiry	AF/BY76/76
DEFE 19 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE: CENTRAL DEFENCE SCIENTIFIC STAFF and predecessors: REGISTERED FILES (CSA, AE 1 and A SERIES) and PAPERS			
9	1948 - 1960	Scientific intelligence. (RETAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH S3(4) OF PRA, BUT INCLUDES DSI/JTIC REPORT NO 7 ON UFO STUDY. REPORT EXTRACTED AND RELEASED IN DEFE 44)	CSA/ALPH/51
DEFE 24 Defence Secretariat: Registered Files (DS Series)			
1289	Apr - Aug 78	UFO Reports edited copies	D/DS8/75/2/2E
1290	Aug - Oct 78	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/2F
1291	Jan - Mar 78	UFO Reports	D/DS8/75/2/3D
1292	Sep - Oct 78	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3G

<sup>1</sup> One file, although prepared for TNA, has been temporarily relocated to Feltham as part of a consignment of files contaminated with asbestos.

<sup>2</sup> Although DEFE 19/9 is retained the DSI/JSTI Report NO 7 has been extracted (and replaced with a copy) and released as DEFE 44/119.

<sup>3</sup> Rendlesham Forest occurrence (1980-96) - file already placed in Publication Scheme.

		(1289 - 1292 Not yet transferred - due for release 2009)	
TBA	1977	UFO Reports: Reports and correspondence, Oct-Dec 1977	D/DS8/2/3C
TBA	1977	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/1B
TBA	1977-78	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/1C
TBA	1978	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3E
TBA	1978	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3F
TBA	1978	Ditto	D/DS8/75/2/3H
TBA	1978	Ditto (TBA TNA class & piece numbers - due for release 2007/08)	D/DS8/75/2/3J
TBA	1978	UFO: Parliamentary correspondence	D/DS8/2/3 Pt A
TBA	1979	UFO reports and correspondence	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt F
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt H
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt G
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt H
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt J
TBA	1979	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt K
TBA	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt A
TBA	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt B
TBA	1979	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/4 Pt D
TBA	1979	TV discussion on UFOs	D/DS8/75/6 Pt A
TBA	1979	Satellite Debris	D/DS8/75/7 Pt A
TBA	1980	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt L
TBA	1980	UFO reports: edited	D/DS8/75/2/2 Pt M
TBA	1980	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt A
TBA	1980	UFO reports	D/DS8/75/2/5 Pt B
TBA	1981	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt A
TBA	1981	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt B
TBA	1982	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt C
TBA	1982	General, briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt D
TBA	1983	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt E
NOT FOR TNA (YET)	1980-96	UFOs Report of sighting Rendlesham Forest, December 1981 Not for TNA yet - but file has been released under CODE and placed in FOI Publication Scheme	D/Sec(AS) 12/2/1
TBA	1983	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt A
TBA	1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209/1 Pt B
TBA	1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt F
TBA	1984	General briefs, reports, UFO correspondence	D/DS8/10/209 Pt G
DEFE 31 DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE STAFF: REGISTERED FILES			
177	?	UFO's: incidents	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 21
178	?	Ditto	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 22
179	?	Ditto	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 23
180	?	Ditto	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 24
181	?	Ditto (177 -181 due for release 2010?) NOT YET TRANSFERRED TO TNA (as at Jun 04)	DI55/108/15/1 Pt 25

**MISSING FILES: After an extensive search of Hayes, Records1 and DAS [although Hayes state that items 1-5 with Records1]**

<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1?</b>	1976	M Heseltine	AF/JW221/76
<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1</b>	1976	Nigel Lawson MP Mr Aleyne Body - UFO	AF/JW260/76
<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1?</b>	1976	R Hattersley Esq Mr R Park - UFO	AF/JW270/76
<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1?</b>	1977	John Ellis - UFOs	MR/122505
<b>Hayes?</b>	1979	Unidentified Flying Object	MR/122433
<b>Not Hayes/DAS/Records1?</b>	1980	UFO reports & correspondence	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt G

**Note:**

**Items 1-5 - if located to be assigned to DEFE 13**

**Item 6 - if located to be assigned to DEFE 24**

# **PRO CLASSES CREATED FOR INTELLIGENCE RECORDS – UFO RELATED RECORDS – AS AT JUNE 2004**

20 classes have, to date, been identified for records created for the defence "intelligence" branches. They contain between them more than 17,350 intelligence records selected for permanent preservation.

The classes together with the date range and approximate number of pieces in each class:

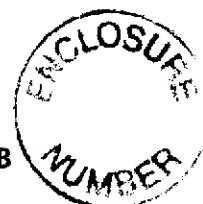
**RESEARCH WARNING: A COMPREHENSIVE SEARCH FOR UFO RELATED DOCUMENTATION HAS NOT BEEN CONDUCTED. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT RECORDS HAS BEEN ON THE "BEST GUESS" PRINCIPLE.**

ADM 223	Naval Intelligence Papers	1914–1978	882 files and volumes.
ADM 231	Naval Intelligence Reports	1883–1965	71 volumes
AIR 40	Directorate of Intelligence and other Intelligence Papers	1926–1984	2852 files and volumes
DEFE 10	Major Committees: minutes and papers	1942–1977	987 bound volumes. Incl: DEFE 10/496 & 497 – These two pieces contain 7 items relating to Working Party on Flying Saucers and its subsequent report. <b>496 &amp; 497 RELEASED 1998 but 6 items were released in 1996 see DEFE 41/74–76</b>
DEFE 19	Ministry of Defence: Directorate of Scientific Intelligence, later Directorate of Scientific and Technical Intelligence: Reports and Memoranda.	1948 – 1979	163 files Incl: DEFE 19/9 1948 – 60 Scientific intelligence Piece includes DSI/JTIC Report NO 7 – report extracted and reassigned to DEFE 44/119
DEFE 21	Joint Intelligence Bureau, Directorate of Scientific Intelligence: Registered files	1946–1978	72 files
DEFE 31	Defence Intelligence Staff: Registered files	1957 – 1979	160 files DEFE 31/118 (1958–63) UFO: policy 119 (1963–67)  (118 & 119 RELEASED 1998)
DEFE 32	Defence Intelligence Staff: Registered files	1946–1983	21 files
DEFE 41	Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence: Scientific Technical Intelligence Branch and Overseas Liaison Branch	1946 – 1963	161 files  Incl: DEFE 41/74) – Minutes from DSI/JTIC Meetings. DEFE 41/75) – (6 items relating to Working Party on DEFE 41/76) – Flying Saucers and its report)  ( RELEASED 1996)  DEFE41/117 – Unorthodox Aircraft (ufo



			<p>references limited to British/German press cuttings (RELEASED 1995)</p> <p>DEFE41/153 - DSI/JTIC papers (incl. reference to Report No. 7 "UFO's") (RELEASED 1995)</p>
DEFE 44	Joint Intelligence Bureau: Reports	1946-1991	<p>298 files and volumes</p> <p>Incl: DEFE 44/119 DSI/JTIC Report No 7 (Transferred to PRO 2 October 01)</p>
DEFE 60	Ministry of Defence: Joint Intelligence Bureau: Economic and General Division, later Division of Joint Services and Economic Intelligence: Intelligence Assessments, Reports, Memoranda and Surveys	1952-1956	2 files
DEFE 61	Ministry of Defence - Defence Intelligence Staff: Directorates of Service Intelligence and of Economic and Logistic Intelligence: Registered Files	1957-1976	8 files
DEFE 62	- Ministry of Defence - Defence Intelligence Staff: Director-General of Intelligence, later Chief of Defence Intelligence; Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Intelligence); Directorate of Management and Support of Intelligence; and Defence Intelligence Staff Secretariat: centrally-staffed DIS Intelligence Assessment, Reports and Studies	1964-1988	Currently an empty class
DEFE 63	Ministry of Defence - Defence Intelligence Staff: Directorate of Service Intelligence, later Deputy Directorate of Intelligence (Warsaw Pact) and Deputy Directorate of Intelligence (Rest of the World): Intelligence Assessments, Reports and Studies	1957-1976	10 files
DEFE 64	Ministry of Defence - Defence Intelligence Staff: Directorate of Economic Intelligence: Intelligence Assessments, Reports and Studies	1957-1978	27 files
DEFE 65	Ministry of Defence: Joint Intelligence Bureau and	1961-1975	5 files

	<b>Defence Intelligence Staff: Intelligence conferences, Committees and Working Parties; Reports and Papers</b>		
<b>DEFE 66</b>	<b>Ministry of Defence: Joint Intelligence Bureau and Defence Intelligence Staff: Miscellaneous Papers</b>	<b>1946– 1972</b>	<b>Currently an empty class</b>
<b>WO 106</b>	<b>Directorate of Military Operations and Intelligence</b>	<b>1837– 1962</b>	<b>6368 boxes, files and volumes</b>
<b>WO 208</b>	<b>Directorate of Military Intelligence</b>	<b>1917– 1974</b>	<b>5387 boxes, files and volumes</b>



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The classes together with the date range and approximate number of pieces in each class:

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	<b>Defence Intelligence Staff: Intelligence conferences, Committees and Working Parties; Reports and Papers</b>		
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<b>WO 208</b>	<b>Directorate of Military Intelligence</b>	<b>1917– 1974</b>	<b>5387 boxes, files and volumes</b>



Section 40

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

From: CTandUKOps-Airspace Integrity SO1 [CTandUKOps-AirspaceIntegritySO1@mod.uk]  
 Sent: 07 September 2004 18:40  
 To: Section 40  
 Cc: CTandUKOps-AD Ops2  
 Subject: RE: Dr Clarke

Section 40

As requested.

I have answered the questions below to the best of my ability.

There is nothing in my responses that cannot be released to Dr Clarke although you may wish to make my answers more politically correct and coherent with MOD Policy (if there is any!)

Section 40

SO1 Airspace Integrity  
 D CT&UK Ops

Section 40 Section 40

Please note that this CHOTs account will cease to exist at 1200 on 10 Sep 04. Messages cannot be forwarded to the new account.

From 1200 on 13 Sep 04 my new e-mail addresses will be: Section 40 @mod.uk (internet compatible) or CTandUKOps-Airspace Integrity SO1. Other details are:

SO1 Airspace Integrity,

Section 40

Main Building,

Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: Section 40  
 Sent: 27 August 2004 12:19  
 To: Info Records1; DI BCR-CG AD; CTandUKOps-Airspace Integrity SO1  
 Cc: Section 40  
 Subject: Dr Clarke

Dear All

I have now received Dr Clarke's agenda of items for discussion at our meeting with him and Section 40 on

1<sup>st</sup> October. I am going to prepare some notes for Section 40 and myself to use when we are talking to them. Most of the questions we can answer, but I would be grateful for your advice on the following which refer to your areas.

The future of Defence Intelligence files subject to asbestos contamination – what other subject areas are affected?

(DI BCR-CG AD / Info Records1)

20/09/2004





Future preservation of UFO files and destruction of files – possibility of storage in electronic formats.

**(Info Records1 – Do you have any general guidance on the preservation of MOD information now we are storing electronically?).**

Status and titles of files currently in process of transfer from MOD to TNA – possible dates of transfer etc.

**(Info Records1)**

Status of air intelligence and scientific intelligence files currently withheld under Section 3(4) of the Public Record Act in context of FOIA.

**(DI BCR-CG AD / Info Records1)**

Missing Records: The possible file location of the 1955 report on “Flying Saucers” by DDI (Tech) to ACAS(I) referred to in Parliamentary papers to Major Sir Patrick Wall held at Hull University.

**(DI BCR-CG AD / Info Records1 - Dr Clarke has provided some papers on this. I will fax them to you both)**

Is it not a matter for concern that radar systems are contrived to ignore returns outside the parameters of known aircraft technology?

**(CTandUKOps-Airspace Integrity SO1)**

*This response is confined to Air Defence radars - I am not aware of any Military ATC radar reporting system or analysis procedures.*

No because there is currently no suggestion or credible evidence (either here in the UK or from the international community) that there is any extra-terrestrial activity that poses a threat to UK national security.

Does MOD maintain separate records of unidentified radar incidents and which department performs analysis of these?

**(CTandUKOps-Airspace Integrity SO1)**

*This response is confined to Air Defence radars - I am not aware of any Military ATC radar reporting system or analysis procedures.*

No, MOD does not maintain separate records of unidentified AD radar incidents.

This is due to the fact that there are no known incidents of the Air Defence radars or Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) radar at RAF Fylingdales detecting an object(s) whose origin could not be explained.

Currently the AD radar plot data is archived by the command and control system for 30 days before it is overwritten - this is a flight safety requirement and it is not in any way related to concerns about unexplained radar sightings. However, if the radar operators did have any concerns the radar data would be 'played back' and analysed by the local operational and technical subject matter experts. If this analysis proved inconclusive, it would be possible to pass the data on to our specialist radar technical experts at RAF Henlow or to the radar manufacturer. However, no such incidents have been recorded so this procedure has never needed to be formalised or utilised.

This is the same process that is applied to Unexplained Aerial Sightings from Credible Witnesses. The operators at the command and control units are ordered by the Group Headquarters (formal tasking originates from DCT&UK Ops when notified of incidents by DAS) to 'playback' the radar tapes at the time and location of the alleged 'sighting' and report whether the radar detected any unusual and unexplained activity. I am not aware of any incident that has been detected by an AD radar and classified as of 'interest to the Air Defence system'.

BMEWS radar data is archived for 10 days before being overwritten. This is mainly due to the fact that some space debris can orbit the earth several times before the identify is positively confirmed. If the radar operators did have any concerns the radar data could be 'played back' and analysed by the local operational and technical subject matter experts. There are no known incidents of the BMEWS radar at RAF Fylingdales detecting an object(s) whose origin could not be explained.

Given ambiguous nature of unidentified radar incidents form 1950s why were detailed records

from this period destroyed?

(CTandUKOps-Airspace Integrity SO1)

*This response is confined to Air Defence radars.*

My understanding is that the MOD is only required to keep files until the desk-officers responsible for the subject believe that they are of no further administrative or operational value. As there has never been any suggestion or credible evidence that there was any extra-terrestrial activity that posed a threat to national security, I can only assume that the files were destroyed under normal 'housekeeping' guidelines as they were regarded as of no further interest or value to the MOD.

These same guidelines exist today and archived files on all subjects and of all classifications are constantly being reviewed and are destroyed, where appropriate.

How many such incidents on record in recent years and what action taken?

(CTandUKOps-Airspace Integrity SO1)

*This response is confined to Air Defence radars - I am not aware of any Military ATC radar reporting system or analysis procedures.*

There are no records of any unidentified radar incidents in recent years.

Any such incident would be handled in the same manner as the Unexplained Aerial Sighting reports.

Even though we will be talking to Clarke and **Section 40** face to face, FOI principles will still apply, so if there is anything sensitive in what Dr Clarke has asked, please let me know so that we do not tell him anything that should not be released. I am on leave from the 2 to 17 September, but would appreciate your advice by

COP 20<sup>th</sup> September. If you have any queries before then, please give me a call on

**Section 40**

**Section 40**

DAS-FOI

**Section 40**, MB

Tel: **Section 40**



Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 02 September 2004 09:10  
**To:** Section 40; CBSSBC-SYOPS7; CBSSBC-SYOPS9 (CHOTS)  
**Cc:** Section 40  
**Subject:** RE: Visitors & Portable Recording Devices

Section 40

I have taken further advice on this request. To allow this CBSSBC-Sy would require a justifiable case to be presented for the use of recording equipment. In this case, accurate note taking is not justifiable.

This opens an additional question: Why can't they take written notes?

Regards,

Section 40

---

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 01 September 2004 10:55  
**To:** Section 40; CBSSBC-SYOPS7; CBSSBC-SYOPS9 (CHOTS)  
**Cc:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Visitors & Portable Recording Devices

Section 40

Further to your advice below, the people who are visiting us on 1<sup>st</sup> October have told us that they would like to bring a Sony Mini-disc recorder with them to enable them to take accurate notes. I see from JSP440 that we need approval from the local security staff, so I would be grateful for your advice as to whether this is possible. The visitors will be escorted by MOD staff from the North Door to the conference room and at all times during their visit. We initially assumed that they may wish to use a laptop (which now we know they do not) so we have booked an AV enabled conference room Section 40.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

MB

Section 40

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**From:** CBSSBC-PO1  
**Sent:** 21 July 2004 13:58  
**To:** DAS-FOI  
**Cc:** CBSSBC-SYOPS7; CBSSBC-SYOPS9 (CHOTS)  
**Subject:** Restricted: Security Helpdesk Enquiry - Visitors & Portable Recording Devices

Section 40

Reference: Security Helpdesk Enquiry 85 - Visitors & Portable Recording devices in MB

Thank you for your enquiry with reference to visitors to MOD Main Building with portable recording devices. The advice is by category of equipment:

21/09/2004

**1. Camera's (including mobile phones with camera capability)** - Covered by Photography/Sketch & Plan under the Official Secrets Act (OSA) and is forbidden

**2. Mobile Phones (without camera capability or with the capability disabled)** - Covered by mobile phone policy recently issued and can only be used in designated areas

**3. Laptop computers with or without removable disk** - Covered by the mobile phone policy recently issued and can only be used in designated areas

**4. Ancillary Recording Equipment** - Covered by JSP440 Vol.. 3, Part 7 Section 3 Chapter 5, Para 32 - *"Ancillary recording equipment may only be brought into sensitive areas by the approval of the appropriate local security staff"*. It is unlikely that CBSSBC Sy would provide the relevant approval, in this case.

Should you require any further advice or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Regards,*

Section 40

*CBSSBC-PassOffice1 & Security Helpdesk*

Section 40

**Section 40**

**From:** DI BCR-CG AD [c=GB;a= ;p=CHOTS-HQ;o=CHOTSR;cn=DI BCR-CG AD ;ou1=MB1;]  
**Sent:** 01 September 2004 19:06  
**To:** DAS-FOI  
**Subject:** FW: UFO requests

Thanks **Section 40** a problem if he asks as we have that clearly documented. It was in order to see whether we had anything useful from a DI perspective and resulted in our decision to stop receiving sighting reports in 2000. I think we have lines to take if he asks.

**Section 40**

DI BCR CG AD

**Section 40**

-----Original Message-----

**From:** DI BCR-CG AD  
**Sent:** 01 September 2004 11:40  
**To:** DI BCR-CG AD  
**Subject:** FW: UFO requests

**From:** **Section 40** X400:C=GB;A= ;P=MOD;O=DI;S=**Section 40** ;I=LC;]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 01, 2004 11:39:37 AM  
**To:** DI BCR-CG AD (CHOTS); DI BCR-CG AD  
**Subject:** RE: UFO requests  
**Auto forwarded by a Rule**

**Section 40**

Thanks for this. I will remove staff names, telephone numbers etc in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

I agree that we should not mention the database to Dr Clarke unless he brings it up. If he does, we can tell him that we believe it has been destroyed. The only tricky thing might be if he asks why it was set up in the first place.

**Section 40**

**From:** DI BCR-CG AD  
**Sent:** 26 August 2004 11:36  
**To:** **Section 40**  
**Cc:** DI 55-B  
**Subject:** RE: UFO requests

Dear **Section 40**

We are now content for you to release the minute from DI ST unredacted.

20/09/2004



Section 40

**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 01 September 2004 11:37  
**To:** DI BCR-CG AD (CHOTS); DI BCR-CG AD  
**Subject:** RE: UFO requests

Section 40

Thanks for this. I will remove staff names, telephone numbers etc in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

I agree that we should not mention the database to Dr Clarke unless he brings it up. If he does, we can tell him that we believe it has been destroyed. The only tricky thing might be if he asks why it was set up in the first place.

Section 40

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**From:** DI BCR-CG AD  
**Sent:** 26 August 2004 11:36  
**To:** Section 40  
**Cc:** DI 55-B  
**Subject:** RE: UFO requests

Dear Section 40  
We are now content for you to release the minute from DI ST unredacted.

Section 40 has found a minute on the file dated March 2000 advising the whereabouts of the original material (ie the sighting reports) and stating that everything else had been destroyed. We infer from that, that the database was also destroyed. However, we do not think there is a need to mention the database to Dr Clarke unless he comes back with a question about it.

Section 40  
DI BCR CG AD

Section 40

-----Original Message-----  
**From:** Section 40  
**Sent:** 23 August 2004 16:44  
**To:** DI BCR-CG AD  
**Subject:** RE: UFO requests

Dear Section 40

Sorry to have caused you so much trouble.

From a Freedom of Information point of view, I think we have a few options regarding these documents.

1. Release the documents to Dr Clarke without redaction. Dr Clarke may then ask for sight of the database or details from it. If we find that the database no longer exists, then we can tell him that and that should be the end of it, although he may ask some questions about why the database was set up. If it is still stored somewhere and the information is still sensitive we will be able to withhold the information under an exemption of the Code, depending on the sensitivities.
2. Release the documents, but redact the information which refers to the database. We would then have to sight an exemption of the Code and be prepared to defend this decision, first to DG Info, then to the Ombudsman, should Dr Clarke choose to appeal.
3. Withhold all of the documents which mention the database. This is the least satisfactory outcome and again he could (and I would think is likely to) appeal.

As the public will gain access rights under the Freedom of Information Act in January 2005, we need to also consider whether any information we withhold now, can still be withheld under the Act.

We can not keep Dr Clarke hanging on indefinitely and I am sure he will raise the fact that he is still awaiting a decision on these papers when we meet him on 1<sup>st</sup> October. I hope therefore we can reach a decision before then, if not sooner.



**Section 40**

**From:** DI BCR-CG AD [c=GB;a= ;p=CHOTS-HQ;o=CHOTSR;cn=DI BCR-CG AD ;ou1=MB1;]  
**Sent:** 23 August 2004 17:49  
**To:** DAS-FOI  
**Cc:** DI 55-B  
**Subject:** FW: UFO requests

Thanks, **Section 40** would prefer the first option. WE will then a few weeks to see if the database can be traced. If discovered, it SHOULD all be releasable. Although **Section 40** were discussing charging a fee for it!!

**Section 40** grateful for your views. Are you happy for **Section 40** to send Dr Clarke the unredacted note yet?  
**Section 40**

-----Original Message-----

**From:** **Section 40**  
**Sent:** 23 August 2004 16:44  
**To:** DI BCR-CG AD  
**Subject:** RE: UFO requests

Dear **Section 40**

Sorry to have caused you so much trouble.

From a Freedom of Information point of view, I think we have a few options regarding these documents.

1. Release the documents to Dr Clarke without redaction. Dr Clarke may then ask for sight of the database or details from it. If we find that the database no longer exists, then we can tell him that and that should be the end of it, although he may ask some questions about why the database was set up. If it is still stored somewhere and the information is still sensitive we will be able to withhold the information under an exemption of the Code, depending on the sensitivities.
2. Release the documents, but redact the information which refers to the database. We would then have to sight an exemption of the Code and be prepared to defend this decision, first to DG Info, then to the Ombudsman, should Dr Clarke choose to appeal.
3. Withhold all of the documents which mention the database. This is the least satisfactory outcome and again he could (and I would think is likely to) appeal.

As the public will gain access rights under the Freedom of Information Act in January 2005, we need to also consider whether any information we withhold now, can still be withheld under the Act.

We can not keep Dr Clarke hanging on indefinitely and I am sure he will raise the fact that he is still awaiting a decision on these papers when we meet him on 1<sup>st</sup> October. I hope therefore we can reach a decision before then, if not sooner.

The move to MB was not bad, although seven weeks on, we still have no UFO answerphone and no access to our database.

**Section 40**

DAS-FOI

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**From:** DI BCR-CG AD  
**Sent:** 23 August 2004 11:51  
**To:** DAS-FOI  
**Subject:** UFO requests

Dear **Section 40**

I have had an update from DI55 on finding the information about the sightings database mentioned in **Section 40** minute. We have been having difficulty in contacting the contractor who compiled it, but we now think it was compiled by **Section 40**'s behalf. We are now trying to find out if there is a copy stored anywhere.

Meanwhile, **Section 40** agreed to write me a note detailing his efforts. I think once FOI comes in, some



evidence to demonstrate that we have been active and not just letting things drift will be extremely useful if requesters appeal. I will let you have a copy of his note when I get it.  
I hope the move to MB went OK!

Section 40 [REDACTED]

DI BCR CG AD

Section 40 [REDACTED]



### DAS-Sec3

**From:** DI BCR-CG AD  
**Sent:** 03 June 2004 10:00  
**To:** DAS-Sec3  
**Subject:** RE: UFO- Request for information

Thanks **Section 40** Sorry to hold you up and cause delay.

**Section 40**

DI BCR CG AD

**Section 40**

-----Original Message-----

**From:** DAS-Sec3  
**Sent:** 03 June 2004 09:28  
**To:** DI BCR-CG AD  
**Subject:** RE: UFO- Request for information

OK **Section 40** Thanks. In the meantime, so that we do not delay sending the rest of the papers he has requested, I will tell Dr Clarke that we are temporarily withholding these papers, so we can consider their status further.

**Section 40**

-----Original Message-----

**From:** DI BCR-CG AD  
**Sent:** 03 June 2004 09:07  
**To:** DAS-Sec3  
**Cc:** DI55B  
**Subject:** RE: UFO- Request for information

**Section 40**

Thank you for your advice. I apologise. Having now reread the Code, I can see that we need to be more rigorous these days in citing an exemption. I will speak to **Section 40** again and if necessary, get his Director involved if we do need to cite an exemption. I will be in touch soon.

**Section 40**

DI BCR CG AD

**Section 40** **Section 40**

-----Original Message-----

**From:** DAS-Sec3  
**Sent:** 02 June 2004 16:03  
**To:** DI BCR-CG AD  
**Subject:** RE: UFO- Request for information

**Section 40**

Under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code), information can not be withheld purely on classification or because it is about policy. Information can only be withheld if it fits one of the 15 Code exemptions and we can demonstrate that the harm likely to arise from disclosure would outweigh the public interest in making the information available. If we do withhold information under an exemption of the Code and the requester is unhappy with that decision (very likely in this case) they have the right to first, an internal review (by DG Info) and then an appeal to the Parliamentary Ombudsman. In both cases we would have to justify our decision and if we can not put up a strong enough case, we can be told to release the information. When the public gain access rights under the FOI Act in January 2005 very similar arrangements will apply.

If you still believe that this information should be withheld from Dr Clarke please could you let me know which exemption of the Code you believe best fits your reason for withholding the information and what harm you envisage would be caused by its release. Please let me know if you do not have access to details of the Code exemptions and I will fax them over to you.

**Section 40**

DAS-Sec3

**Section 40** **Section 40**

-----Original Message-----

**From:** DI BCR-CG AD

Sent: 02 June 2004 14:49  
To: DAS-Sec3  
Subject: RE: UFO- Request for information

Sorry [Section 40]

Meant to reply to you before. [Section 40] have discussed these documents and we have decided that since they concern DIS policy and are classified CONFIDENTIAL, we do not wish them to be released into the public domain. We shall be reviewing UFO files in the light of the FOI Act in due course, but at this stage, we are not ready to release them.

[Section 40]

DI BCR CG AD

[Section 40] [Section 40]

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS-Sec3  
Sent: 02 June 2004 12:06  
To: DI BCR-CG AD  
Subject: UFO- Request for information

[Section 40]

I now have together all the papers requested by Dr Clarke which I am about to send to him. Please could you let me know as soon as possible, whether you are happy for us to release the two documents I sent to you on 21 April.

[Section 40]

DAS-Sec3

[Section 40]



Section 40

**From:** David Clarke [Section 40]  
**Sent:** 01 September 2004 20:09  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting, 1 October

1 September 2004

Dear Section 40

With reference to the forthcoming meeting on 1 October I hope you have received the list of topics to be discussed.

Due to unexpected work commitments my colleague Section 40 will be unable to accompany me to the meeting.

However, another colleague, Section 40 wishes to accompany me and out of courtesy I said I would obtain clearance for this substitution with you in advance.

I shall be on holiday from 2-10 September and no doubt will hear from you in due course,

Yours sincerely

Dr David Clarke

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Section 40  
**To:** Section 40  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2004 1:58 PM  
**Subject:** Meeting, 1 October

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your message.

I will discuss this further with Section 40 when he returns from leave and then I will write to you again.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

**From:** David Clarke [mailto:Section 40]  
**Sent:** 15 August 2004 17:14  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting, 1 October

15 August 2004

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your message concerning our meeting on 1st October.

Whilst we fully understand your concerns regarding our proposal to record the interview, surely you can appreciate that this is the only way to ensure that a full and

21/09/2004

accurate record of the discussion can be made. For the purposes of academic research hand written notes, or indeed shorthand, do not constitute an accurate record of what was said and any ambiguity could lead to misunderstanding or misperceptions which could, in turn, distort our understanding of the MoD's position.

We also understand the possible security concerns about bringing a recording device into the MoD building. However, we are quite prepared for any check to be made on the equipment or, failing that, perhaps the MoD could provide suitable recording equipment for us to use.

We have no desire to become 'involved in future public interviews and debates' regarding answers to any of our questions and, as I am sure you must be aware, share the MoD viewpoint on UFOs to a great extent. We are quite simply trying to obtain direct answers to questions which have not been asked before and in a face to face situation so that any nuances may be explored as they arise. Clearly this cannot be done by letter or email due to the nature of these communications and equally clearly the only way to be sure we have a true and accurate record of the MoD's answers.

We hope this clears up any misunderstandings and look forward to hearing from you once this has been discussed with **Section 40**. You should receive our agenda questions within the next ten days.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr David Clarke

----- Original Message -----

From: **Section 40**  
To: **Section 40**  
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2004 11:39 AM  
Subject: Meeting, 1 October

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your message concerning our meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

With regard to your proposal to tape our discussion, I need to discuss this with **Section 40** who is currently on annual leave until 25 August. Once I have had an opportunity to speak to **Section 40** I will write to you again.

In the meantime, please be aware that the MOD does not get involved in taped interviews and public debates on UFO matters. We are happy to explain the MOD's position and to assist the public wherever possible with answering any questions that they may have, or information they may require. **Section 40** and I have, therefore, agreed to this meeting on the understanding that the purpose of the meeting is to assist you with your studies, not for us to become involved in future public interviews and debates for which we do not have the time or resources.

I will discuss this further with **Section 40** on his return and if we agree that our conversation can be recorded for your research purposes, I will explore the technical possibilities with our building security staff.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**  
MOD  
DAS-FOI



**From:** David Clarke [mailto:Section 40]  
**Sent:** 10 August 2004 18:54  
**To:** Section 40  
**Subject:** Meeting, 1 October

10 August 2004

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 21 July 2004 in reply to mine of 5 July enclosing cheque for UFO-related records processed under the Code of Practice.

With regards to the proposed meeting at MOD Main Building with yourself and Section 40 just to confirm that Friday, 1 October at 11am is convenient for myself and Section 40

One question: I note that your description of security procedures states that "cameras or ancillary recording equipment" will not be allowed into the building.

While we had no intention of bringing cameras to the actual meeting, does this mean that it will not be possible to record the discussion meeting for transcription purposes?

I had intended to record the discussion on a small Sony mini-disc recorder that I use for interviews. This would then allow me to produce an accurate transcription of what was said that I intended to submit to yourself for approval. If this is not possible, could MOD provide a recording machine that could be used for the same purpose?

I have drawn up an agenda of topics for discussion and will send this by post within the next week.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David Clarke  
National Centre for English Cultural Tradition and Language  
School of English  
University of Sheffield



Section 40

From: Section 40

Sent: 01 September 2004 10:55

To: Section 40; CBSSBC-SYOPS7; CBSSBC-SYOPS9 (CHOTS)

Cc: Section 40

Subject: Visitors &amp; Portable Recording Devices

Section 40

Further to your advice below, the people who are visiting us on 1<sup>st</sup> October have told us that they would like to bring a Sony Mini-disc recorder with them to enable them to take accurate notes. I see from JSP440 that we need approval from the local security staff, so I would be grateful for your advice as to whether this is possible. The visitors will be escorted by MOD staff from the North Door to the conference room and at all times during their visit. We initially assumed that they may wish to use a laptop (which now we know they do not) so we have booked an AV enabled conference room Section 40).

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40

MB

Section 40

From: CBSSBC-PO1

Sent: 21 July 2004 13:58

To: DAS-FOI

Cc: CBSSBC-SYOPS7; CBSSBC-SYOPS9 (CHOTS)

Subject: Restricted: Security Helpdesk Enquiry - Visitors &amp; Portable Recording Devices

Section 40

Reference: Security Helpdesk Enquiry 85 - Visitors &amp; Portable Recording devices in MB

Thank you for your enquiry with reference to visitors to MOD Main Building with portable recording devices. The advice is by category of equipment:

1. **Camera's (including mobile phones with camera capability)** - Covered by Photography/Sketch & Plan under the Official Secrets Act (OSA) and is forbidden
2. **Mobile Phones (without camera capability or with the capability disabled)** - Covered by mobile phone policy recently issued and can only be used in designated areas
3. **Laptop computers with or without removable disk** - Covered by the mobile phone policy recently issued and can only be used in designated areas
4. **Ancillary Recording Equipment** - Covered by JSP440 Vol.. 3, Part 7 Section 3 Chapter 5, Para 32 - "Ancillary recording equipment may only be brought into sensitive areas by the approval of the appropriate local security staff". It is unlikely that CBSSBC Sy would provide the relevant approval, in this case.

Should you require any further advice or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

01/09/2004



Section 40

*CBSSBC-PassOffice1 & Security Helpdesk*

Section 40



Section 40



**From:** CBSSBC-PO1  
**Sent:** 21 July 2004 13:58  
**To:** DAS-FOI  
**Cc:** CBSSBC-SYOPS7; CBSSBC-SYOPS9 (CHOTS)  
**Subject:** Restricted: Security Helpdesk Enquiry - Visitors & Portable Recording Devices

Section 40

Reference: Security Helpdesk Enquiry 85 - Visitors & Portable Recording devices in MB

Thank you for your enquiry with reference to visitors to MOD Main Building with portable recording devices. The advice is by category of equipment:

- 1. Camera's (including mobile phones with camera capability)** - Covered by Photography/Sketch & Plan under the Official Secrets Act (OSA) and is forbidden
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- 3. Laptop computers with or without removable disk** - Covered by the mobile phone policy recently issued and can only be used in designated areas
- 4. Ancillary Recording Equipment** - Covered by JSP440 Vol.. 3, Part 7 Section 3 Chapter 5, Para 32 - "Ancillary recording equipment may only be brought into sensitive areas by the approval of the appropriate local security staff". It is unlikely that CBSSBC Sy would provide the relevant approval, in this case.

Should you require any further advice or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Regards,*

Section 40

CBSSBC-PassOffice1 & Security Helpdesk

Section 40

31/08/2004

RESTRICTED

**Physical and Environmental Security: Counter Eavesdropping, Overlooking and Overhearing****Control of loudspeaker telephones**

31. 'Hands-free' telephones have built in loudspeakers. Such telephones should be removed from conference or meeting rooms, and cut off when sensitive conversations are being held in their vicinity.

**Control of recording equipment**

32. As well as static installations, such as conference room dictation systems, a number of portable items that may be fitted with microphones and a recording capability are likely to be brought into defence premises. Where official PDAs and mobile phones are to be brought into sensitive areas, care must be taken that their recording facilities cannot be accidentally activated by the holder, or remotely activated. Ancillary recording equipment may only be

~~used in areas where the use of such equipment is not prohibited by the relevant security policy.~~

REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

**Inductive Loops**

33. As well as the direct audio signal, it is also possible for an attacker to exploit the inductive loops fitted to various types of equipment to aid those with hearing disabilities. If any equipment fitted with such facilities is to be installed on a defence site, the Co-ordinating Installation Design Authority (CIDA) should be consulted.

**Acoustic hoods**

34. Acoustic hoods offer some privacy in general office areas, but must be sited carefully to be effective.

**Secure speech enclosures**

35. Secure speech enclosures offer a high degree of privacy. Their use should be considered where sensitive discussions take place in a high risk environment, and when using approved secure speech systems in such environments.

**Physical search**

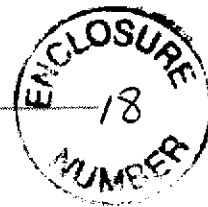
36. Periodic physical searches by security staff (usually security guards in MOD civilian establishments and service personnel in service establishments) are an effective countermeasure against quick-plant devices. Basic guidelines for carrying out a physical search can be found at *Annex C*. Advice on training in physical searching is available through the relevant PSyA.

**Action to be taken when an eavesdropping device is found**

37. Search teams who believe they have found an eavesdropping device in an office/conference room etc should immediately follow the guidance given at *Annex C*.

RESTRICTED

Section 40



REDACTION ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

From: [REDACTED] [c=GB;a=;p=CHOTS-HQ;o=CHOTSR;cn=DI BCR-CG AD ;ou1=MB1;]

Sent: 01 September 2004 09:38

To: DI 55-B; DI BCR-INFO AD; DI BCR-INFO 1a

Cc: DAS-FOI

Subject: FW: Dr Clarke

Dear all

Please see the attached email from DAS with some further questions from Dr Clarke, who is researching UFOs. DAS have agreed to meet Dr Clarke and his assistant, [REDACTED], to answer his questions. These particular questions refer to the files in the contaminated archives. I have numbered the ones relevant to DIS.

On Q1, he ask what other subject areas are affected? I don't think we would wish to answer specifically. [REDACTED] you have a line to take, please?

Q2 - [REDACTED] would you shed any light on section 3(4) of the Public Record Act or is this one for Info Records to answer?

Q3 - [REDACTED] have a fax that I can copy you - but would we still retain files from 1955? [REDACTED] there any files which might be relevant in our archives?

I am on leave after the Transition Event, but back on 17 Sept. Most grateful for your help on these questions and your responses by 17 Sep would be most helpful. Thanks very much.

Section 40

DI BCR CG AD

Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DI BCR-CG AD

Sent: 01 September 2004 08:15

To: DI BCR-CG AD

Subject: FW: Dr Clarke

From: [REDACTED] [X400:C=GB;A=;P=MOD;O=DII;S=[REDACTED];I=LC;]

Sent: Wednesday, September 01, 2004 8:14:29 AM

To: DI BCR-CG AD; DI BCR-CG AD (CHOTS)

Subject: FW: Dr Clarke

Auto forwarded by a Rule

Section 40

I hope one of these will get to you this time. This is what the fax refers to.

Section 40

DAS-FOI

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 27 August 2004 12:16

To: Info Records1; DI BCR-CG AD; CTandUKOps-Airspace Integrity SO1

21/09/2004



**Section 40**  
**Subject: Dr Clarke**

Dear All

I have now received Dr Clarke's agenda of items for discussion at our meeting with him and **Section 40**  
**Section 40**.

1<sup>st</sup> October. I am going to prepare some notes for **Section 40** and myself to use when we are talking to them. Most of the questions we can answer, but I would be grateful for your advice on the following which refer to your areas.

1. The future of Defence Intelligence files subject to asbestos contamination – what other subject areas are affected?

**(DI BCR-CG AD / Info Records1)**

Future preservation of UFO files and destruction of files – possibility of storage in electronic formats.

**(Info Records1 – Do you have any general guidance on the preservation of MOD information now we are storing electronically?).**

Status and titles of files currently in process of transfer from MOD to TNA – possible dates of transfer etc.

**(Info Records1)**

2. Status of air intelligence and scientific intelligence files currently withheld under Section 3(4) of the Public Record Act in context of FOIA.

**(DI BCR-CG AD / Info Records1)**

3. Missing Records: The possible file location of the 1955 report on "Flying Saucers" by DDI (Tech) to ACAS(I) referred to in Parliamentary papers to Major Sir Patrick Wall held at Hull University.

**(DI BCR-CG AD / Info Records1 - Dr Clarke has provided some papers on this. I will fax them to you both)**

Is it not a matter for concern that radar systems are contrived to ignore returns outside the parameters of known aircraft technology?

**(CTandUKOps-Airspace Integrity SO1)**

Does MOD maintain separate records of unidentified radar incidents and which department performs analysis of these?

**(CTandUKOps-Airspace Integrity SO1)**

Given ambiguous nature of unidentified radar incidents form 1950s why were detailed records from this period destroyed?

**(CTandUKOps-Airspace Integrity SO1)**

How many such incidents on record in recent years and what action taken?

**(CTandUKOps-Airspace Integrity SO1)**

Even though we will be talking to Clarke and **Section 40** to face, FOI principles will still apply, so if there is anything sensitive in what Dr Clarke has asked, please let me know so that we do not tell him anything that should not be released. I am on leave from the 2 to 17 September, but would appreciate your advice by

21/09/2004

● OP 20<sup>th</sup> September. If you have any queries before then, please give me a call on MB Section 40

Section 40

DAS-FOI

Section 40 MB

Tel: MB Section 40



**Dr David Clarke**

Section 40



Section 40

**Directorate of Air Staff(Secretariat)3  
Ministry of Defence  
Room 6/73 Metropole Building  
Northumberland Avenue,  
London WC2N 5BP**

25 August 2004

Dear Section 40

Please find attached our agenda for our meeting at 11 am on Friday, 1 October 2004.

The areas of discussion are loosely grouped under four general headings, A-D. We hope this will provide some structure and allow you to prepare in advance.

However, we hope the subject areas/questions are not too restrictive on a free-flowing discussion of the subject matter.

Please note the attached papers, copied from the Major Patrick Wall MP archive at the University of Hull refer to agenda item B8 – the 1955 Air Ministry report on ‘flying saucers’ which so far has not been identified at the TNA.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the agenda please do not hesitate to contact me either in writing or via email.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

**D.W.Clarke**

Section 40

**Agenda items for meeting with Ministry of Defence, DAS (Sec), 1 October 2004.**

**A) MOD policy and 'Unidentified Flying Objects'**

1. Which documents/briefings form the basis for current policy? What is the earliest dated document currently used as the basis for policy?
2. Outline of working relationship of the departments/branches responsible for dealing with UFO matters the process whereby MOD receives and investigates reports
3. What factors lay behind DIST decision of October 2000 that they are not interested in receiving reports?
4. How far are current DAS personnel aware of the past involvement of the Ministry in UFO matters and how they got involved (is there any form of history describing which secretariat was responsible for the subject in the past, etc?)
5. Would it be possible to contact previous incumbents of S4(Air), DS8 etc for interviews as part of this study?
6. Reasons why MOD are reluctant to take part in public discussion of UFO matters or to provide a "spokesperson" for media?
7. MOD Publication Scheme and UFOs: what factors led Ministry to accept there was a "public interest" in the subject and how they intend to address this.
8. What is the MOD's view of former incumbents of the 'UFO Desk' giving media interviews as de facto 'MOD spokesman' when the opinions expressed conflict with those of the department? This question refers to your letter to **Section 40** of 17 November 2003 where you state that the Ministry is keen to "ensure that any personal viewpoint is not presented as MOD policy."
9. Nick Pope frequently refers to his time at the UFO Desk as being part of 'The Project'. Was this term ever used for MOD UFO investigations, formally or informally?
10. Does the role that Nick Pope occupied still exist? Is there an unclassified role description of that post available?
11. Why in 1995 did Sec(AS)2a **Section 40** inform a member of the public that RAF Rudloe Manor/P&SS/Flying Complaints Flight acted as "a co-ordination point" for UFO reports received by the RAF prior to 1992? Why had this matter been previously denied by previous incumbents of Sec(AS)2a?

**B. FOIA and archive material:**

1. The future of Defence Intelligence files subject to asbestos contamination – what other subject areas are affected?
2. Future preservation of UFO files and destruction of files – possibility of storage in electronic formats
3. How applications for access to UFO files held by MoD and MoD archives will proceed after January 2005 under FOIA
4. Status and titles of files currently in process of transfer from MOD to TNA – possible dates of transfer etc
5. Issue of payment for processing of files subsequently made available via MOD Publication Scheme
6. Status of air intelligence and scientific intelligence files currently with-held under Section 3(4) of Public Record Act in context of FOIA
7. Possible location of pre-1962 UFO records: the issue of “missing files” that are actually misplaced within other files with titles that do not reflect their UFO content.
8. Missing Records: The possible file location of the 1955 report on “Flying Saucers” by DDI (Tech) to ACAS (I) referred to in Parliamentary papers of Major Sir Patrick Wall held at Hull University? [copy attached, Attachment A].

**C. Radar systems and detections of ‘UFOs’**

1. Is it not a matter for concern that radar systems are contrived to ignore returns outside the parameters of known aircraft technology?
2. Does MOD maintain separate records of unidentified radar incidents and which department performs analysis of these?
3. Given ambiguous nature of unidentified radar incidents from 1950s why were detailed records from this period destroyed?
4. How many such incidents on record in recent years & what action taken?

**D. UFO incidents:**

1. Rendlesham Forest incident: a) what specific factors led to release of the file; b) to whom was it first released; c) when will the original file be available for scrutiny at TNA?
2. Photographic cases: what (if any) criteria do they apply to decide whether or not they should examine a photo?
3. Reports by Civil Aviation pilots: how many in recent years and what procedures are followed to investigate these.
4. Reports by Air Force & other personnel: how many in recent years?
5. Total numbers and most likely explanation for UFO reports received within last three years.

**D.W.Clarke**  
**23 August 2004**



## Attachment A

*Sunday Dispatch* (London), April 24, 1955, p.1

### **FLYING SAUCERS REPORT IS KEPT SECRET**

Air Ministry chiefs have been shown a full report of the RAF's five-year probe into Flying Saucers. To the great question: "Do Flying Saucers exist?" the answer is understood to be "No." But the public are not to know the details.

Ten weeks ago the *Sunday Dispatch* knew about this report and pressed for publication in the public interest. Yesterday the Air Ministry stated that a senior officer has ordered that the report is never to be made public.

Fear of scepticism is one of the reasons that induced the air-marshals to have the report filed away. They feel that the findings cannot be explained without revealing top-secret facts and that without a full explanation there would be a nation-wide controversy over the truth of the report.

*Sunday Dispatch*, May 1, 1955, p. 3

### **MP: TELL ALL ON FLYING SAUCERS**

The Air Minister will be asked in the Commons on Wednesday if he will make public a report on Flying Saucers which an officer on the Air Staff has refused to release.

Major Patrick Wall (Con: Haltemprice) gave notice of his question after reading in last week's *Sunday Dispatch* that the report, prepared after a five year probe, will not be made public.

"Unless there is a security risk, which I don't think there is, the public should know the truth," he told me. "If the Air Ministry have found the answer whether or not they exist it is of great interest to everyone."



Major Wall

The following information was given to me by Mr. Peterson, News Editor of the "Sunday Dispatch". He asked that it should be treated as strictly confidential, as it was given him by an informant in the Air Ministry and you will understand that he is very anxious not to involve him.

There are in fact 2 reports. The first is a full length report going into some 10000 words. It does include a number of things which the authorities would certainly consider as ~~secret~~ secret. Another, and modified report, of about 2½000, has been vetted for security and it was this one that Mr. Peterson hoped would be made available for publication. As far as the reasons for suppressing it are concerned, Mr. Petersen feels sure that these are not very sound, though, as he put it, "boxed up" in a parliamentary answer they may sound as though they are!

He would be most grateful if he could be informed if you do put down a Question, as he would like to give it publicity.

**Dr. Hill:** I can reassure the hon. and learned Gentleman to this extent: whereas in recent years the demand has exceeded the supply, it is estimated that in the current year the supply will be substantially in excess of the demand.

36. **Mr. Bing** asked the Postmaster-General the number of business and private subscriber lines, respectively, connected to the Rainham Exchange, and the number of applications for business and private lines, respectively, at present outstanding.

**Dr. Hill:** The number of business subscribers' lines is 1,285, and of private subscribers' lines 1,447. Forty-five business and 517 private applications are at present outstanding, apart from those in course of provision or under inquiry.

**Mr. Bing:** Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there are many small business firms in the Rainham area which have been unable to obtain telephones for a considerable period—one of which cases I called to his attention? In these circumstances, does he not think that he could appeal to one or two of the very large firms who are connected to that exchange—for instance, Ford's works—to give up one or two of their lines in favour of small businessmen?

**Dr. Hill:** I do appreciate the problem of small businessmen waiting for telephones, and I shall look into the suggestion the hon. and learned Gentleman has made.

### "FLYING SAUCERS"

39. **Major Wall** asked the Under-Secretary of State for Air whether the Air Ministry inquiry into the existence of "flying saucers" has been completed; and whether he proposes to publish a report.

**The Under-Secretary of State for Air (Mr. George Ward):** Reports of "flying saucers," as well as any other abnormal objects in the sky, are investigated as they come in, but there has been no formal inquiry. About 90 per cent. of the reports have been found to relate to meteors, balloons, flares, and many other objects. The fact that the other 10 per

cent. are unexplained need be attributed to nothing more sinister than lack of data.

**Major Wall:** I thank my hon. Friend for that reply, which I am sure will be of interest to a great many members of the general public.

## TRANSPORT

### Area Consultative Committees

41. **Mr. Page** asked the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation what steps he has taken, and what further steps he proposes to take, in pursuance of the recommendation of the Central Transport Consultative Committee for Great Britain in paragraph 5 of that Committee's Annual Report for 1954 to increase the awareness of the public at large of the facilities provided by the area committees.

**The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation (Mr. John Boyd-Carpenter):** I shall continue to invite the attention of hon. Members and of organisations outside to the use which can be made of these committees. But the good work they do is itself the best method of securing greater public attention to them.

**Mr. Renton:** Is my right hon. Friend aware that, however much these consultative committees are used and however hard they try, they will always be a poor substitute for Parliamentary Questions and debate?

**Mr. Boyd-Carpenter:** As my hon. and learned Friend knows, they largely cover a sphere upon which, on the whole, Parliamentary Questions are not admissible. As I believe my hon. and learned Friend knows, these committees do a very good job of work.

### Public Service Vehicles (Passengers' Injuries)

42. **Mr. Page** asked the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation how many accidents have occurred causing personal injury to passengers falling inside public service road vehicles during the latest convenient 12 months; how far the number shows an increase upon previous years; and whether he will cause a special inquiry to be made into this type of accident.



From: **Section 40**

Directorate of Air Staff - Freedom of Information  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB



Telephone

(Direct dial)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)

020 7218 2140  
020 7218 9000

e-mail

**Section 40** @mod.uk

Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**

Your Reference

Our Reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11  
Date  
21 July 2004

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your letter of 5<sup>th</sup> July and your cheque for £615. Your cheque has been passed to the MOD Accounts Department and I enclose a receipt for your records.

We are still awaiting a decision on the documents outstanding from your request, but I will write to you again as soon as there is any news.

With regard to our meeting, **Section 40** and I are unavailable during the dates you suggested in September, but we have made an appointment to meet you and **Section 40** on the 1 October 2004 at 11.00am. I hope this will be convenient for you.

Please enter the MOD Main Building by the North Door entrance in Horse Guards Avenue. You will be required to comply with security procedures which will include the searching of any luggage you have with you and may include putting it through an x-ray machine similar to those used at Airports. Please note that the security regulations for MOD buildings do not allow you to bring Camera's or ancillary recording equipment into the building. Mobile phones may be carried, but have to remain switched off in most areas of the building. The building is fitted with mobile phone detection equipment in prohibited areas. The use of camera's on mobile phones is strictly forbidden. You will be allowed to bring a Laptop into the building, but will only be able to use it in designated areas. I have ensured that I have booked a conference room in an area where you will be able to use a laptop if you wish to do so. Security will be told that you will be visiting and will notify me of your arrival.

I hope this is helpful. We are currently experiencing some technical problems with our telephone, so if you have any questions, please e-mail me at the address at the head of this letter. In the meantime, I look forward to receiving your agenda of items for discussion in due course.

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**



From: Section 40 [REDACTED]

Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Zone H, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

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(Fax)

e-mail

Section 40 [REDACTED]

@mod.uk

Section 40 [REDACTED]

## **RECEIPT**

This is to certify that the Ministry of Defence, Directorate of Air Staff has received a cheque from Dr David Clarke for the sum of £615 made out to The Accounting Officer, MOD. This was payment for the preparation and supply of information from MOD files on 'unidentified flying objects' which Dr Clarke requested in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

Section 40 [REDACTED]

21 July 2004.

Section 40



**From:** CBSSBC-PO1  
**Sent:** 21 July 2004 13:58  
**To:** DAS-FOI  
**Cc:** CBSSBC-SYOPS7; CBSSBC-SYOPS9 (CHOTS)  
**Subject:** Restricted: Security Helpdesk Enquiry - Visitors & Portable Recording Devices

Section 40

Reference: Security Helpdesk Enquiry 85 - Visitors & Portable Recording devices in MB

Thank you for your enquiry with reference to visitors to MOD Main Building with portable recording devices. The advice is by category of equipment:

- 1. Camera's (including mobile phones with camera capability)** - Covered by Photography/Sketch & Plan under the Official Secrets Act (OSA) and is forbidden
- 2. Mobile Phones (without camera capability or with the capability disabled)** - Covered by mobile phone policy recently issued and can only be used in designated areas
- 3. Laptop computers with or without removable disk** - Covered by the mobile phone policy recently issued and can only be used in designated areas
- 4. Ancillary Recording Equipment** - Covered by JSP440 Vol.. 3, Part 7 Section 3 Chapter 5, Para 32 - "Ancillary recording equipment may only be brought into sensitive areas by the approval of the appropriate local security staff". It is unlikely that CBSSBC Sy would provide the relevant approval, in this case.

Should you require any further advice or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Regards,*

Section 40

*CBSSBC-PassOffice1 & Security Helpdesk*

Section 40

21/07/2004





**Dr David Clarke**

**Section 40**

**Section 40**

**Directorate of Air Staff(Secretariat)3  
Ministry of Defence  
Room 6/73 Metropole Building  
Northumberland Avenue,  
London WC2N 5BP**

5 July 2004

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your letters dated 3 June and 21 June in response to my request for UFO related information and copies of files requested under the Code of Practice.

The files dispatched under the date of 3 June arrived safely and I do appreciate the hard work that must have gone into assembling this material. As agreed I enclose a crossed cheque for £615 made out to 'Accounting Officer MOD' in payment. Please could you let me have a receipt for this amount which is required for my project accountants.

I look forward to receiving copies of the outstanding documents from D/AIR DEF/111/6/4 Part F and D/DPR(RAF)326 Part A when consultations with your colleagues have been completed.

In the meantime, I hope that your move back into the MOD Main Building goes well. I hope you will be fully settled in by the time of the meeting we discussed in previous correspondence. I anticipate being able to send an agenda of items for discussion before the end of this month. Having consulted with my colleague **Section 40** on convenient dates for us, we would suggest the following:

Monday, 13 September 2004

Monday, 20 September 2004

Friday, 24 September 2004

The autumn university semester commences on 27 September and due to teaching commitments after that any Friday from 1 October would be equally convenient for us. Thank you again for your assistance which is appreciated,

Yours sincerely,

**Section 40**

## Section 40

## Section 40

Date 5 JULY 2004

Pay

Pay ACCOUNTING OFFICER MOD—

SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN POUNDS £ 615 ———

ONLY

## Section 40

27 11 03

Cheque No.

Sort Code

Please do not write or mark below this line

Account No.

Trans.

## Section 40



From: **Section 40**  
Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat)3

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,  
WC2N 5BP



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020 7218 9000

**Section 40**

Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**

Your Reference

Our Reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11  
Date  
21 June 2004

Dear Dr Clarke

Thank you for your letter of 3 June. I apologise for not replying sooner but I have been consulting with our records department about the UFO files held at The National Archives. I am now in a position to send a substantive reply.

First, your letter seems to have crossed in the post with the information I sent to you on 3 June relating to your request for copies of seven files. I hope these have now arrived with you.

With regard to your question about files held at The National Archives which are due for release between 2006-2009, I can confirm that the MOD has raised no objections to the early release of certain files relating to the 'UFO' phenomenon. However, I must point out that the identification of records for consideration for early release was the sole responsibility of The National Archives. As to when transferred material becomes available, this is a matter for The National Archives.

You also asked about the status of four Ministerial files. With the exception of the Nigel Lawson file (which we have been unable to locate), three of the four Ministerial files are in the process of preparation for The National Archives. Unfortunately, the Richard Luce file has been in contact with files previously stored in an asbestos environment. In the circumstances this file has been isolated and will not be transferred to The National Archives at the present time. The National Archives will determine when the other files are suitable for transfer to Kew.

As for the nine files, DEFE 24/1206, DEFE 24/1207-1212, D/DS8/75/2/1 Parts C and F- those assigned provisional National Archives references (ie.DEFE) are awaiting transfer to Kew. The two DS8 files are currently at a very early stage in the preparation process. However, these files are just a very small part of a very large collection (in excess of 400 files) that are new additions to DEFE 24, in the circumstances we do not anticipate transfer to The National Archives before September / October 2004 at the earliest.

You asked if it would be possible for you to obtain, in advance, a list of UFO-related files which will be released in 2005. The National Archives is working in collaboration with the MOD to identify transferred information which is suitable for early release, but The National Archives will

determine when material will be available. This question should therefore be directed to The National Archives.

Finally, with regard to the meeting you have requested with DAS staff, we will arrange a mutually convenient date when we have received your agenda of matters for discussion. In the meantime you may wish to note that we will be moving out of this building on 9<sup>th</sup> July and returning to the Ministry of Defence Main Building in Whitehall which has been undergoing refurbishment. Our address from the 12<sup>th</sup> July will then be as follows;

Ministry of Defence  
Directorate of Air Staff – Freedom of Information  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Zone H  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HB

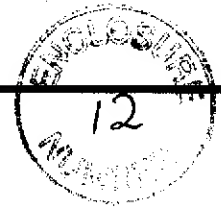
I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



**S-Sec3**



**From:** Info-Records1  
**Sent:** 16 June 2004 13:17  
**To:** DAS-Sec3  
**Subject:** Input to Dr Clarke's letter of 3 June



InputtoD.doc

**Section 40**

I attach the suggested Records1 input to your reply to Dr Clarke's letter of 3 June.

I hope that it makes sense!

**Section 40**

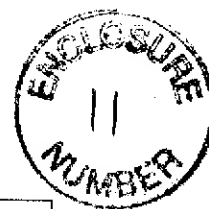
Info-Records1 input to Dr Clarke's letter dated 3 June 2004

<i>Comment</i>	<i>Suggested reply</i>
<p>The early release exercise is a TNA initiative.</p> <p>TNA was responsible for identifying relevant records and clearing release with departments.</p> <p>Departments had no responsibility establishing the accuracy of lists produced by TNA, MOD's action being limited to advising whether release is agreed.</p>	<p>I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence has raised no objections to the early release of certain files relating to the "UFO" phenomenon. However, I must point out that the identification of records for consideration for early release was the sole responsibility of The National Archives. As to when transferred material becomes available this is an matter for TNA.</p>
<p>Four Ministerial files:  <sup>Lawson</sup>  The <del>Luce</del> file cannot be found (searches at Hayes, DAS and Records1).</p>	<p>With the exception of the Lawson file (which we are unable to locate) three of the four Ministerial files are in the process of preparation for TNA.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Luce file has been in contact with files previously stored in an asbestos environment. In the circumstances this file has been isolated and will not be transferred to TNA at the present time. TNA will determine when the other two files are suitable for transfer to Kew.</p>
<p>The preparatory work to enable files selected for permanent preservation at TNA is a time consuming process.</p> <p>DEFE 24 (DS8 files) is a particular problem: there have no transfers for more than a year, and currently two draft lists are awaiting clearance by TNA.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the asbestos problem has impacted on many files being prepared for Kew, DEFE 24 has had more than 50 files removed from transfer and this is may impact on any new additions to DEFE 24.</p> <p>However, TNA staff have agreed that DEFE 24 should now be treated as a priority class for "sorting out" primarily due to the number of ufo files to be assigned, but perhaps more importantly the 400 plus files awaiting some form of action which would add significantly to</p>	<p>Concerning the nine files - DEFE 24/1206, 1207-1212, D/DS8/75/2/1 Parts C and F - those assigned provisional TNA references are awaiting transfer to Kew. The two DS 8 files are currently at a very early stage in the preparation process. However, these files are just a very small part of a very large collection (in excess of 400 files) that are new additions to DEFE 24, in the circumstances we do not anticipate transfer to TNA before September/October 2004 at the earliest.</p>



the early release initiative.	
Dr Clarke may anticipate, but fortunately the decision is not for him but for TNA working in collaboration with MOD. The early release initiative deadline for departments might be July, but the deadline for transfers to Kew to meet the January 2005 release is mid-November. As for the list of early releases this is for Kew not MOD.	The question about a list of files available with effect from January 2005 is one that should be directed to TNA.

"Missing" files (14 June 2004)



<i>TNA ref</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Former ref</i>
1.	1976	Sir John Langford Holt MO Mr J Hennessey	AF/BJ84/76
2.	1976	Nigel Lawson MP Mr Aleyne Body UFO	AF/JW260/76
3.	1976	Dr Coleman JP MP R J Whitrow - UFO	AF/BJ76/76
5.	1976	R Hattersley Esq Mr R Park - UFO	AF/JW270/76
6.	1977	John Ellis - UFOs	MR/122505
7.	1980	UFO reports & correspondence	D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt G

Lat



From: Section 40

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat) 3  
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,  
LONDON WC2N 5BP

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(Fax) Section 40

CHOTs address: DAS-Sec3  
E-Mail: das-sec3@defence.mod.uk

**FAX MESSAGE**

**TO:** Section 40 - Info(Exp)Records 1

**SUBJECT:** Dr Clarke

**DATE:** 7 June 2004

**NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER:** 3

Section 40

As discussed, here is Dr Clarke's latest letter. Please could you give me a call or e-mail regarding his comments on the files in the TNA and those from the late 1970's which I think your staff may be reviewing at the moment.

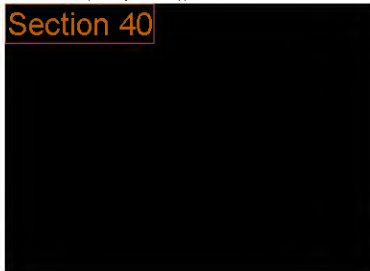
Thanks

Section 40



**Dr David Clarke**

**Section 40**



**Section 40**

**Directorate of Air Staff(Secretariat)3  
Ministry of Defence  
Room 6/73 Metropole Building  
Northumberland Avenue,  
London WC2N 5BP**

3 June 2004

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your letter of 21 April in response to my questions concerning access to UFO related material under the Code of Practice and forthcoming Freedom of Information Act.

I note that the seven files I have requested under the code are currently being processed and I look forward to receiving these when the work is complete.

Further to my question regarding access to files held at The National Archive (TNA) due for release between 2006-9. Enclosed with my letter I supplied a list of 30 UFO files covering the period 1975-78 held at TNA which I understood were currently under review for release following the implementation of the FOIA in 2005. Your reply said no final decision had been made regarding release of these files. However, I now understand from TNA FOIA office that all the files listed – (apart from four or five currently awaiting transfer) – and possibly a number of others will be available from 2005. Could you confirm this is correct?

Assuming the intention remains to open a large number of files that were originally due for release 2006-9 this will extend the UFO material available at TNA to the years 1978-79 from January. The list you supplied of UFO-related files held by MOD included four dating from 1976-77 that relate to correspondence with MPs Sir John Langford-Holt, Nigel Lawson, Richard Luce and Dr Coleman (file refs: AF/BJ84/76, AF/JW250/76, AF/BJ76/76 and MR/12554). Is it also your intention to release these files in 2005 as their date of creation falls within the same time period as the others listed in my letter?

In addition, I note that the majority of the files earmarked for release next year date from the 1970s and in order to complete my research coverage of this decade I wish to examine reports and correspondence files up to 1979. Assuming the 30+ files outlined in my previous letter are released next year, there would appear to be a number of outstanding files that contain correspondence and sighting reports from this period (1978-79). These are:

DEFE 24/1206 -UFO reports and correspondence 1977 (formerly D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt B)

DEFE 24/1207-1212 - UFO reports 1978 (6 files)

D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt C - UFO reports and correspondence 1978

D/DS8/75/2/1 Pt F - UFO reports and correspondence 1979

Could you confirm the status of these files. I wish know if the intention is to release them in 2005 or whether it would be necessary for me to request access to them separately under an FOIA request.

I would anticipate that a decision will be made shortly regarding the extent of the files to be released in 2005. Once that decision is made would it possible to obtain a full list in advance of UFO-related files that will be available from next year. This is an area that could be discussed further at our forthcoming meeting.

With respect to my request for a meeting with members of DAS (Secretariat) to discuss UFO matters, raised in my letter of 22 March. Thank you for confirmation that a meeting is possible and we agree that it would be useful to outline a list of areas in advance that would make the discussion as meaningful as possible. I hope to be able to provide this information shortly and will be in touch to supply an agenda of matters for discussion. Once this has been agreed perhaps we could then arrange a mutually convenient date to meet as you suggest.

In the meantime thank you for your attention to my requests,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40





From: **Section 40**  
Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat)3

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,  
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020 7218 9000

**Section 40**

Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**

Your Reference

Our Reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11  
Date  
3 June 2004

Dear Dr Clarke

Further to my letter of 21<sup>st</sup> April, I am now in a position to send the information which you requested in March. Please accept my apologies for the delay in sending you this information, but you will appreciate the amount of data that has been processed. I will explain what information is enclosed and what will follow. On all files personal details have been removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA98).

**D/D Ops(GE)/10/8/1 Part A**

A full copy of the file is enclosed. On examination we noticed that enclosures 88 to 97 appear to be missing. This may have been a simple error in the numbering of the enclosures or these enclosures may have been removed, or moved to another file. If however, they have been removed it has not been possible to determine what has happened to them.

**D/AIR DEF/111/6/4 Part F**

A copy of the file is enclosed. However, enclosures 95 and 96 have been withheld pending the results of a request to the relevant authorities regarding release. I will write to you again about these soon as a decision has been received.

**D/AIR DEF/111/6/4 Part G**

A full copy of the file is enclosed.

**D/AIR DEF/111/6/4 Part H**

A full copy of the file is enclosed.

**D/DI55/108/15/2**

A full copy of the file is enclosed.

**MO/9/18**

A copy of the file is enclosed. One enclosure has been withheld in accordance with Exemption 2 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information which refers to internal discussion and advice. If you wish to appeal against our decision to refuse this information you should write to the Ministry of Defence, Directorate of Information (Exploitation), Room 819B, St Giles Court,



1-13 St Giles High Street, London WC2H 8LD requesting that the decision be reviewed. If following the internal review you remain dissatisfied, you may ask a Member of Parliament to take up the case with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman) who can investigate on your behalf. The Ombudsman will not, however, consider an investigation until the internal review process has been completed.

**D/DPR(RAF)326 Part A**

This file contains seven documents relating to UFO matters. A copy of three of these are enclosed. The remaining four documents are currently withheld while we consult with our colleagues in the relevant branches to seek advice on their release.

I hope that you will find this information useful. I will write to you again as soon as possible regarding the documents outstanding from D/AIR DEF/111/6/4 Part F and D/DPR(RAF)326 Part A. In the meantime, I would be grateful if you could let me have your crossed cheque for £615 as agreed in your letter of 22 March 2004. The cheque should be made payable to "Accounting Officer MOD".

Yours sincerely,

Section 40



DISC COPIES OF  
ANNEX F TO  
D/DAS/64/3/1.  
PART E ENCL 8

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

LOOSE MINUTE



D/DAS/64/3/11

21 April 2004

DI BCR-CG AD

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. As you will be aware, one of our regular correspondents (Dr Clarke) has made a request under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code) for copies of papers from seven UFO related files.
2. One of these files, contains two documents on UFO Policy which were generated by DIST and classified Confidential in 1997. I have attached copies of these papers and would be grateful if you could advise me as to whether you are content for the whole, or part, of these documents to be released. If you feel that anything should be withheld, we will have to apply an appropriate Code exemption. Any personal details such as individual's names, signatures and telephone numbers will be removed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.
3. I would appreciate a reply as soon as convenient.

Section 40

DAS-Sec3

Section 40

DR CLARKE

Hold.

Awaiting DIS advice on release.

Section 40

3/6/04

DI chased again 8/7/04  
DI Update 23 Aug 04.

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DI(ST)/11/10

28 May 1997

Sec(AS)2

Copy to: AOAD1  
PSO/ACAS  
DAO  
Hd Sec(AS)  
DI Sec  
DPR(RAF)  
AD/DI 55

Section 40

2/6/97

**UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA - POLICY**

Ref A: D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 13 May 97.

1. Thank you for your minute and your observations.
2. UFO/UAP. I note that you will continue to use the term "UFO" and appreciate your logic. We prefer to use the term UAP internally to DI(ST) since I believe that it more accurately describes the topic.
3. DIS Interests. - Your existing policy statement is already classified RESTRICTED - POLICY and I believe that this is adequate to cover my suggested minor amendment. In dealing with the public I would expect you to continue to use the expression "anything of defence significance".
4. Archive. By archive I meant your UFO report files since I assumed that you retain files to assist in answering questions from the public. My proposal was meant to indicate that once the database was established we would not retain any paper reports. I do not envisage that this practice would impose any additional work on your department.
5. Database/Customers. DSc(Air) TG 3 and 4 strongly support our proposed initiative. If DAO still have no interest in any data-basing of material then I will support the minor costs involved from within my own budget. I am still prepared to include any minor DAO requirements if they do not have a significant effect on

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

costs.

6. I hope that my comments have assisted in your understanding of my intentions. I have no wish to "send the public a misleading message" and I will (as always in the DIS) take appropriate steps to ensure that the public do **not** become aware of this minor project.

Section 40



DI( ST)

Section 40



**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**UNCLASSIFIED**

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DIST/11/10

25 Apr 97

326/2

Sec(AS)2

Copy to:

AOAD1

PSO/ACAS

DAO

Hd Sec(AS) Section 40

DI Sec

DPR(RAF)

AD/DI55

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL PHENOMENA (UAP) - POLICY

References

- A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 29 Jan 97
- B. D/DIST/11/10 dated 3 Feb 97
- C. D/DAO/1/13 dated 25 Mar 97
- D. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 2 Apr 97
- E. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 22 Apr 97

1. My apologies firstly for not responding sooner to your minutes at Ref. Unfortunately it took much longer than expected, at the time of my holding reply, to recover from a number of staff changes and to give the subject sufficient attention against other priorities. I am pleased that we should have this debate since at present there is a significant mismatch between our assumed responsibilities and our ability to resource them.

**Policy**

2. Referring to the policy stated in your initial minute (Ref A, Annex paras 1 & 2) an immediate difficulty arises over the use of the term 'UFO'. This term is discredited in some circles and I think that consistent use of UAP would be much more satisfactory. This would then avoid an immediate association with 'extraterrestrial' phenomena and the difficulty which arises in trying to distinguish whether events are 'extraterrestrial' or not, a judgement which we are strictly incapable of making. While analysis may enable MoD to identify some phenomena, those that remain are by definition 'unidentified' rather than 'extraterrestrial'.

3. You queried at Ref A, para 3a the extent of DIST interest in UFO reports. We agree that MoD's interest has to be related to defence significance but this is not solely to determine whether

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the UK ADR is breached, as implied by the parenthetical text in your Annex, para 2. DIST's role in support of customer requirements is to assess all source intelligence on foreign weapon systems and science & technology with military relevance. We have the responsibility to decide which sources are most appropriate and how they should be weighted for assessments. We regard UAP as a source, akin in some respects to human reporting not least in that the phenomena are reported by people and may not be fully appreciated or understood at the time. This intelligence interest needs to be explicitly covered in the policy statement and we propose that your Annex, para 2 should read:

'MoD's interest in 'UAP' is limited to examining reported sightings to establish if such activity might have a defence significance, viz:

- a. whether the UKADR has been breached;
- b. what intelligence is revealed on military capabilities of other countries;
- c. whether scientific and technical information of military significance is revealed.'

#### **Arrangements**

4. Referring to your Annex, para 4, in the light of the above we do not consider that MoD can have no interest in extraterrestrial matters and needs to keep an open mind on whether 'unidentified' phenomena may have significance. Additionally the lack of evidence to date in the DIS on the extraterrestrial hypothesis has to reflect the fact that we have not carried out any analysis. Effectively the UAP source is unproven for DIST purposes, a situation of concern even if we never expect it to be as reliable or valuable as other sources. Two principles therefore arise:

#### **Reports**

5. Firstly DIST needs to continue to receive reports in order to make the judgements at para 3b and 3c above. It seems probable that only credible sources are likely to provide enough information for a substantive analysis and we are therefore prepared to constrain ourselves to receive reports in the categories at Ref D, para 2.

#### **Analysis**

6. Secondly DIST needs to have an adequate system in order to reference the information. In line with developing practices for other source intelligence we need a reliable system for the retention and analysis of data. Hitherto the paper records have been much too unwieldy for effective action leading to the failing noted above. The proposed filtering of reports will reduce the volume considerably and we need to take the opportunity to initiate a database now. How we do this remains to be decided. Our resources are heavily over-bid but it seems essential that we establish the database in order to reduce subsequent analysis effort to the minimum. The extent to which we incorporate retrospective reports into the database depends on the resource costs. At best we would aim to apply the proposed filters in order to reduce the task to manageable

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proportions. Concurrently we have to decide whether it should be DIS policy to retain the other reports or rely on your own archive. I favour the latter. Once the database is established and populated we would commission a limited analysis to determine whether reports possess any intelligence, S&T value or discernible patterns (locations, features, performance) and establish the residue of significant unidentified events.

7. This requirement for a database needs to be considered alongside DAO's interests and we should aim to develop a single framework and decide how to share the responsibility for data entry.

#### Action

8. We therefore propose to:
- a. plan in conjunction with DAO and customers how to achieve the database;
  - b. implement the plan, sharing resources if appropriate;
  - c. conduct, in DIST, a limited analysis of events;
  - d. review the situation once the database is accessible and no later than 12 months hence.

Section 40

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Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DAO/1/13

26 Mar 97

SEC(AS)2

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS

DAO

DI ST

Head of Sec(AS)

DI Sec

AD/DI55

DPR(RAF)

Section 40

27/3

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO) POLICY

## References:

- A. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 14 Mar 97.  
B. D/Sec(AS)/64/1 dated 29 Jan 97.

1. Thank you for your letter at Reference A reminding of the need to make progress on future handling of UFO reports against a background of increasing public interest and therefore workload. You ask what might be required insofar as air defence interests are concerned.
2. Following your earlier letter at Reference B, you will recall our discussion of the topic. My views are unchanged. We have no direct air defence interest in UFO reports unless there is intelligence, reliable sighting or evidence that UK national airspace, or the UKADR, may be, or has been, penetrated by aircraft of potentially hostile powers without authorisation. Orbiting satellites are accounted separately and appropriate COMSEC implemented.
3. A majority of UFO reports are tenuous in nature, are reported at second hand or with a time lag, and frequently overland or at night in areas where we have little radar cover. Those described as at great height, if they exist, may lie above radar cover, as only Fylingdales has tracking capabilities in the endo-atmosphere and in space. Some reports describe objects in terms of manoeuvre, speed and shape which lie beyond our engineering knowledge and that which could be reasonably expected from hostile powers.
4. There is considerable difficulty, therefore, in assessing and prioritising these reports sufficiently quickly to provide, where warranted, an active response. Moreover, when interceptions may be needed, we are constrained by reduced readiness following drawdowns at the end of the Cold War and the considerable time lag in responding from northern bases in the event of incidents in the south, especially if access is needed to intensively used civil

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airspace. Inevitably, interceptions are infrequently attempted against knowledge that, in the present benign environment, most sightings are unlikely to be associated with threatening activity.

5. I would emphasise that such sightings have been few and far between, with only Russia among potentially hostile powers being capable of penetrating UK airspace at very high altitudes; while no hostile power could reasonably be responsible for low level sightings, because of the range or political risk involved, except in the context of large civil register aircraft diverting from flight plans (where we have had incidents).

6. Staffing UFO matters, however, is a time consuming concern. As you are painfully aware, reported sightings are frequently explored in the public domain, often by organised societies, seeking extra-terrestrial explanations. Whilst using best judgement at the time, we are sometimes left accounting for the inexplicable or investing large numbers of man hours to establish rational explanations (as recently in the "Skegness sighting" when the Service's professional competence was called into question in an MP's letter to the SofS). These frustrations are compounded by supporting PQs of the sort "... on how many occasions have ..." which require paper searches of long put down records. Neither do explanations that "the cost of the search cannot be justified" satisfy the public, for it only re-inforces their conviction that if the truth cannot be found out there, it is certainly available in the MOD. The MOD may eventually be caught out by cross referring to previous answers and other information, cherished on PCs and exchanged on "the web". The consequences are further questions and ever greater care and time taken to ensure that we do not contradict ourselves.

7. The problem is unlikely to subside especially as the US brings into service over the next decade high flying capabilities such as Global Star, Dark Star, the X-33 and, should it come to fruition, the manned spaceplane. Other nations will follow, especially with UAVs, which may permit risk taking in unauthorised penetrations of airspace. Activities of these sorts would clearly require monitoring and control by the MOD.

8. The extra-terrestrial business is also likely to boom, exacerbating the staffing problem. Continuing discoveries of planets, and emerging knowledge of circumstances needed for at least non-intelligent life, lead to speculation that planets and life may commonly occur. With that change of perception, arguing that our rock alone is a teeming and verdant speck in a vast and sterile nothingness may soon be as unrewarding as the Church once found in continuing to enforce the idea that the world was flat; more so, with the knowledge that many suns are older than our own, and perhaps provide conditions for advanced evolution. Even though some experts argue very low probabilities for intelligent life, and allowing for barely imagined transit distances, requiring unknown uses of physics, we cannot rule out entirely the idea of extra-terrestrial observation/visitation, either covert or overt. Our current policy to retain an open mind on these matters is therefore probably correct.

9. It is a fine judgement whether UFO sightings are MOD matters, or Government responsibilities best located with other agencies given the unproven nature of a vast majority of reports. I

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believe they should continue to be managed in the MOD because of inevitable inter-weaving of terrestrial sightings, some of military origin, with extra-terrestrial pre-occupations. Moreover, any future concerns, terrestrial or extra-terrestrial, are likely to require national or international co-ordination responsive only within security alliances.

10. Whether we should set aside for further examination outside the MOD unexplained phenomena, I leave others to decide, knowing that political, scientific and cost judgements are associated with their investigation. I am not wholly convinced, however, that covert investigations would be the best way forwards. When inevitably discovered, they lead to mistaken ideas that "contact has been made" or that "government is worried, knowing something we don't." Should we decide regularly to investigate UFO reports, then we might look at how the US has handled some aspects with, for example, the targeted search of deep space for artificial signals which attracts little public speculation. The downside, of course, is "Roswell" with plastic kits as visible proof of alien capture and reverse engineering. What are US reporting and investigation practices?

11. The UK air defence interest is primarily to automate reporting, handling and administration of incidents so that operators, infrequently switching their busy routines to consider unlikely phenomena, react in a focused and consistent way. Reaction and reporting needs for UFOs are similar to those practices necessary for handling flight safety incidents, and potentially we could mimic them. However, a computer based system is needed to support accurate handling and recording of incidents, and to allow easy extraction of historical data for parliamentary response or retrospective study. Such a system is not, per se, an air defence requirement.

12. We therefore differ in view over responsibilities, organisation and funding. These matters are not for the air defence forces alone to consider, or to utilise the output from. Public reporting of phenomena is essentially government business to which we contribute infrequently when there are matters of direct air defence interest and, on other occasions, to exclude known air movements. As always, when tasked to respond, we do so to the best of our abilities. However, PQs that ask what similarities we have found between recent incidents and those of years ago, or to count them, leave us embroiled in dusty paperchases or in making retrospective assessments of incidents when we are not fully expert.

13. My response has turned out longer than I had intended, but hopefully lays the issues fully on the table as we see them. The policy is fine, how we manage public enquiries probably needs some re-consideration, also whether we need to fund investigation of a minority of incidents which may be inexplicable; above all, we need an electronic database and management system against which

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sightings may be uniformly handled and recorded. If nothing else, we owe successors an easily extracted historic record.

[REDACTED]  
Gp Capt  
AOAD1  
[REDACTED]

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Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS) 64/1

13th May 1997

DIST

Copy to:

PSO/ACAS

DAO

DI Sec

DPR(RAF)

Head Of Sec(AS)

AOAD1

AD/DI55

'UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS' - POLICY

Reference: D/DIST/11/10 dated 25th April 1997

1. Thank you for your minute at Reference setting out the DIS interest in 'UFO' reports.

2. I was grateful for your detailed comments. I think it might be helpful if I list my observations on them in the same order (paragraph numbers in brackets in bold refer to your minute):

a. You say that you would prefer the term 'UAP' rather than 'UFO' (para 2). Presentationally this would give us some problems. To the vast majority of the public - and it is the public we deal with - 'UFO' with all its 'extraterrestrial' connotations is the only one they recognise. Most are not interested in the difference and, to avoid any more confusion in their minds, we shall continue with 'UFO'.

b. You suggest (para 3) amending the policy statement on MOD's interest to include your own specific areas of interests. However, the current wording 'anything of defence significance' has been couched in fairly general terms so that it can be used in response to PQs, letters from the public, the media etc. We need to be quite sure that there are no hostages to fortune in saying anything more detailed. Are you content to have your interests promulgated more widely given the inevitable questioning that will follow?

c. I can assure you that we too are always careful to say that we have an open mind on this issue (para 4).

d. For the future we shall copy to you (and DAO) only those sighting reports falling into the three categories set out in my minute to AOAD1 of 2nd April (D/Sec(AS)/64/1) (para 5).

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e. You say (para 6) that you need an adequate reference system for information culled from reports and intend a database, albeit that you have not yet determined how it might be achieved, and that incorporating retrospective reports depends on the costs involved. But you also say that you have to decide whether it should be 'DIS policy to retain other reports or rely on our archive'. I am rather confused about what this means. Are the 'other' reports those copied to you previously which do not fall into the three categories (para d above), or those which will not be copied to you in future? Either way, I am concerned that you favour relying on our archive because you do not say what this might entail and I am afraid there are no Sec(AS) resources to support your work. If there is a DIS requirement for access to archive material I think it makes sense for DIS to retain the information.

f. Returning to the subject of a database (para 7), you suggest DAO's requirements also need considering and propose a single framework, sharing responsibility for data entry. However, AOAD1 has said they have no requirement for a database (D/DAO/1/13 dated 25th March, para 11) and, as I made clear in my reply to him, Sec(AS) has no need of one either. It would be helpful to know who else might be a customer given Sec(AS)'s role as the MOD focal point for this subject, and what 'shared resources' might be used to implement the plan. Sec(AS) has neither staff nor money for this purpose and, I think, DAO is similarly constrained.

3. I am sorry for the length of this note but we do all need to be quite clear what, as a Department, we are doing and why. We need to be very careful about expanding 'UFO' business and, thereby, sending the public a misleading message about the extent of MOD's interest. Of course, should Government policy on this issue change, we will review the extent of our involvement accordingly.



Sec(AS)2  
MB8247   
CHOTS: SEC(AS)2  
FAX : 

UFOs/policy6

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From: **Section 40**  
Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat)3

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue, London,  
WC2N 5BP



Telephone

(Direct dial)  
(Switchboard)  
(Fax)  
(GTN)

020 7218 2140  
020 7218 9000

**Section 40**

Dr David Clarke

**Section 40**

Your Reference

Our Reference  
D/DAS/64/3/11  
Date  
21<sup>st</sup> April 2004

Dear Dr Clarke,

Thank you for your letter of 22 March concerning your further request for information under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

The seven files you have requested are currently being processed and I will write to you again as soon as possible.

With regard to your request for an estimate of supplying D/DI55/108/15/1 Part 9, unfortunately we are unable to access this file as it is currently held in the archive which is contaminated with asbestos. I should inform you that with the exception of D/DI55/108/15/2 – Cosford Incident, Investigation, which you have already requested, all the Defence Intelligence UFO files are stored in this archive and are therefore not accessible at this time.

In your letter you expressed concern about the future of files stored in the contaminated archive. You may therefore wish to be aware that the basement of the Old War Office Building houses some of the Ministry of Defence's archives, including some material already selected for transfer to The National Archives. Unfortunately, as a consequence of the discovery of asbestos in the vicinity of these archives access to the files stored at this location is no longer possible. In accordance with current health and safety regulations files have now been sealed in sacks and crated pending their re-location to another defence site. During the coming year the MOD will address the problem of how the information contained in these files may be safely accessed. However, at this point in the project it is not possible to state when, or in what form, any of the files affected by the asbestos contamination problem will be available to the public.

You have also raised the question of access to files held at The National Archive (TNA) which are due for release between 2006-2009. An exercise is already under way to consider the status of more than 100,000 files already at TNA for possible release in January 2005 or soon after. Of the 29 files cited in your letter, 25 are already at TNA. The remaining four are awaiting transfer between the MOD and TNA, and it is hoped that these will also be at TNA by the end of the year. No final decision has been made regarding the release of these files and a decision is unlikely before July 2004.

Finally, you asked if it would be possible for you and Section 40 to meet with members of DAS (Secretariat). Section 40 (Assistant Director of DAS Secretariat) and myself, would be happy to meet you, but in order to make the discussion as meaningful as possible, it would be extremely helpful if you were able to outline in greater detail the "matters where ambiguity remains". In addition an indication of which other areas you wish to discuss would be helpful. Once we have this information I hope that it will be possible to find a mutually convenient date to meet thereafter.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DAS-Sec3

m:  
Sent: D News RAF  
19 April 2004 15:25  
To: DAS-Sec3  
Subject: RE: Interview / Meeting with Dr Clarke & Section 40



Section 40

Many thanks for sight of the attached, which explains the situation very thoroughly. I can't think of anything else to add.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS-Sec3  
Sent: 19 April 2004 15:09  
To: D News RAF  
Subject: Interview / Meeting with Dr Clarke & Section 40

Section 40

Here is our brief for US of S on the proposed meeting with our two Ufo historians. Please let me know if you have any comments.

<< File: Dr Clarke Interview - Sub to Min1.doc >>

Section 40

DAS-Sec3

Section 40

D/DAS/64/3/11

19 April 2004

**PS/US of S**



Copy to:  
APS/Minister(DP)  
Head of AHB(RAF)  
AHB(RAF)-PCB(AIR)  
D News RAF  
InfoAccess-AD  
InfoAccess-PM4  
Info-Records1

**UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS – PROPOSED MEETING BETWEEN  
RESEARCHERS AND MEMBERS OF DAS**

**Issue**

1. Members of DAS, with policy responsibility for the department's limited interest in Unidentified Flying Objects, have been asked to meet with two prominent researchers (Dr David Clarke and **Section 40**) who are studying UFO phenomena.

**Recommendation**

2. That Minister notes that DAS staff intends to agree to the meeting, to be held on a date in May 2004.

**Timing**

3. Routine.

**Background**

4. Dr David Clarke has been corresponding with DAS on the subject of UFOs since 1998. He states he was a founder member of the Independent UFO Network in 1987 and of the UFO Investigator's Network in 1999. He has also served as a Council member of the British UFO Research Association in the late 1980s. Dr Clarke was a journalist for ten years in the regional press and, in addition to his current studies, now works freelance. He has written (or co-written) eight books on UFOs, ghosts and legends and has contributed to a number of magazine articles and TV programmes on related subjects. He is currently a post-doctoral researcher based at the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition and Language at Sheffield University where he is studying the social history of UFO phenomena in Britain from 1947. He is in the process of preparing an application to the Economic and Social Research Council for funding to undertake a two-year project to further his research.



5. Section 40 has also been corresponding with DAS on UFO matters since 2000. He works closely with Dr Clarke on a number of projects and has written, or contributed to seven books on UFOs, ghosts and legends (with Dr Clarke and others). Section 40 has produced articles for UFO magazines, local and national TV and radio shows.

6. Both Dr Clarke and Section 40 have made a large number of requests for information about our files relating to UFOs under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. They have indicated that they intend to continue to do so when the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) comes into force on 1 January 2005. They have recently requested a meeting with members of DAS staff in order to avoid unnecessary correspondence in future. They have assured us that this meeting is for the purposes of their own research only.

7. Previous practice has not been to agree to such requests, which has possibly contributed to the perception by some groups that the Department is being secretive. The subject matter lends itself well to populist theories of government cover-ups, and appearances in the media by unofficial MOD spokesmen only highlights our reluctance to enter into debate. Rejection of the request could further increase the perceived secrecy surrounding the MOD position on this subject.

8. DAS staff believes that given the current climate of government openness, and forthcoming Freedom of Information Act, it would be beneficial for us to meet these two researchers. Clarke and Section 40 appear to have some influence within academic and specialist UFO groups and a meeting could help them gain a better understanding of the department's limited interest in this subject. I propose to meet them, together with the appropriate Desk Officer, sometime next month. In advance of the meeting we would seek details of the issues Messrs Clarke and Section 40 wish to discuss at the meeting, and we would emphasise that any information provided was being provided solely to assist with their research. We do not propose a more active engagement with UFO interest groups. D News RAF has been consulted and is content for this meeting to proceed.

[Original Signed]

Section 40

DAS- AD (Secretariat & Lower Airspace)

Section 40

## DAS-Sec3

From: DAS-SecAD  
Sent: 15 April 2004 17:07  
To: DAS-Sec3  
Subject: RE: Interview

Importance: Low



### Section 40

We spoke. Please draft out a short submission to PS/USofS along the lines we discussed. I'd like to take a look at it on Monday please.

I would hope we could get something to Clarke next week.

thanks,

### Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS-Sec3  
Sent: 15 April 2004 09:27  
To: DAS-SecAD  
Subject: FW: Interview

### Section 40

For info.

Are you happy for the letter to go to Clarke now? Do you think we should advise Dr Lewis Moonie MP?

### Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: D News RAF  
Sent: 15 April 2004 08:44  
To: DAS-Sec3  
Subject: Interview

### Section 40

Sorry for the delay responding.

We have no problem with the proposed interview, subject to the outlines that Dr Clarke talks about in his letter to you.

The advice from here is that it may be worth informing Ministers, making mention of the fact that you have spoken to us and we support the proposal.

Hope that helps? Please let me know if you need anything else.

### Section 40

### Section 40

Sqn Ldr  
D News RAF

### Section 40

DAS-Sec3

---

From: D News RAF  
Sent: 15 April 2004 08:44  
To: DAS-Sec3  
Subject: Interview

Section 40

Sorry for the delay responding.

We have no problem with the proposed interview, subject to the outlines that Dr Clarke talks about in his letter to you.

The advice from here is that it may be worth informing Ministers, making mention of the fact that you have spoken to us and we support the proposal.

Hope that helps? Please let me know if you need anything else.

Section 40

Sqn Ldr  
D News RAF

Section 40

## Section 6 Disclosure of Information

### 6.1 Principles governing disclosure of information

This section describes the principles governing the public disclosure of information by serving or former members of the Department and sets out the rules that apply those principles to specific cases. The activities governed by this section are:

- public lectures and speeches, interviews with or communications to the press or other media, film, radio and television appearances and statements to non-Governmental bodies, including MOD-sponsored conferences and seminars;
- books, monographs, articles, letters or other text, including supposed fiction;
- theses for degrees, diplomas or MOD-sponsored fellowships;
- participation in outside study conferences, seminars and discussions.

You must not make comment on, or make disclosure of:

- classified or "in confidence" information;
- relations between civil servants and Ministers, and advice given to Ministers;
- politically controversial issues;
- material covered by copyright, unless prior permission has been obtained. Particular care must be taken where the origin of the material is obscure;
- information that would conflict with MOD interests or bring the Civil Service into disrepute;
- information that may jeopardise the commercial interests of the MOD or companies or organisations collaborating with the MOD;
- information that would undermine the security or other national interests of collaborating countries;
- anything that the MOD would regard as objectionable about individuals or organisations;

You must not publish or broadcast personal memoirs reflecting your experience as a Government official, or enter into commitments to do so, while in Crown employment.

### 6.2 Greater openness in Government requires:

- the fullest possible exposition to Parliament and the public of the reasons for Government policies and decisions once these have been announced; and

- improving public understanding about the way the processes of Government work and the factual and technical background to Government policies and decisions.

Ministers are responsible for the exposition of Government policies and decisions. Staff must avoid being drawn into public discussion on justification of Government policies.



### **6.3 Seeking permission**

You must obtain authority, before taking part in any outside activity involving:

- the disclosure of information obtained in the course of official duties;
- the use of official experience;
- the public expression of views on official matters.

*Chapter 3  
Annex M*

The procedures for obtaining permission are set out in Annex M to Chapter 3.

You are responsible for seeking this authority in sufficient time to allow proper consideration. Failure to obtain permission before undertaking any such activity is a disciplinary offence.

Elected officials of a recognised trades union or staff association do not need to obtain MOD authority if they are publicising their association's or union's views on an official matter which, because it directly affects the conditions of service of members, is of legitimate interest to them. This exemption does not apply to the (probably rare) case where the official duties of the union or association representative as a public servant are directly concerned with the matter in question;

*Paragraph 6.1*

You do not need permission to take part in activities organised by, or on behalf of, unions or staff associations, although conduct in public should still be consistent with the principles set out above.

### **6.4 International organisations**

When serving in an international organisation, or with visiting forces, you must observe the rules and regulations of that body. You must consult Defence Information Division (D-INFOD) wherever material concerns the UK, or in any cases of doubt.

### **6.5 Former members of staff**

After leaving the Department you must obtain official sanction from the MOD before publishing any information gained as a result of your official duties.

### **6.6 Press announcements**

Official communications to the Press are made by the public relations staff, or other duly authorised personnel. You must not comment on issues of a politically controversial nature.

### **6.7 Broadcasts and media interviews**

If you are approached directly about participation in a radio or TV programme, or about co-operating in the production of a programme you must report the matter in accordance with the detailed instructions in Annex M to Chapter 3. A member of the Defence Information Division or a duly authorised officer must be present at all press interviews.

*Chapter 3  
Annex M*

Amdt 4

6.8 **Release of information at MOD conferences, seminars, etc**

Sponsors of MOD conferences and seminars, at which classified information is to be discussed, must obtain approval from AD CB Sy before issuing invitations.

6.9 **Political conferences**

You must obtain the permission from a senior line manager before attending conferences of a political nature in an official capacity.

✱ 6.10 **Outside seminars and study conferences**

If you receive an invitation from a non-governmental body to participate in a study, conference, seminar or discussion you must seek prior permission from:

- D News CPO – (Chief Press Officer) if serving in Ministry of Defence Headquarters;
- D Def Sy (Scientific and Technical), if DPA or DSTL personnel (for clearance of material);
- the TLB holder or his or her delegated representative, if working outside MOD HQ.

In any case of doubt you must consult D Def Pol. You must submit texts in advance in accordance with the procedures set out in the Annex M to Chapter 3.

6.11 **Outside organisations**

You do not need prior approval to take part in the proceedings of the following institutes:

- International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).
- Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA).
- Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies (RUSI).

Your participation is, however, subject to the following conditions:

- if nominated by the MOD to participate in a study, conference or seminar on defence problems you are encouraged to make as useful a contribution as possible but, if you are in doubt, you should consult D Def Pol;
- when participating in a discussion, you must be aware that your remarks may be reported and publicised: you should avoid conflict with MOD or Government policy;

Annex N

- you must not reveal classified or commercially sensitive material.

6.12 **Questionnaires**

You must not:

- complete outside questionnaires if it involves disclosing detailed and significant information about official duties. If in doubt you must consult the security officer or the appropriate publication clearance authority;



## Annex N Confidentiality and Official Information

### 1 Rules

Departments and agencies must remind staff on appointment, retirement or resignation that they are bound by the provisions of the criminal law, including the Official Secrets Act, which protect certain categories of official information, and by their duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown as their former employee.

### 2 Standards of conduct to be reflected in local staff regulations

Civil servants are expected to be prepared to make available official information which is not held in confidence within Government, in accordance with Government policy and departmental or agency instructions. They must not, without relevant authorisation, disclose official information which has been communicated in confidence within Government or received in confidence from others.

3 Civil servants must continue to observe this duty of confidentiality after they have left Crown employment.

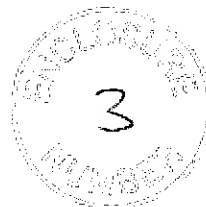


4 Civil servants must not take part in any activities or make any public statement which might involve the disclosure of official information or draw upon experience gained in their official capacity without the prior approval of their department or agency. They must clear in advance material for publication, broadcasts or public discussion which draws on official information or experience.

5 Civil servants must not publish or broadcast personal memoirs reflecting their experience in Government, or enter into commitments to do so, whilst in Crown employment. The permission of the Head of the Department and the Head of the Home Civil Service must be sought before entering into commitments to publish such memoirs after leaving the service.

6 Civil servants must not seek to frustrate the policies or decisions of Ministers by the use or disclosure outside the Government of any information to which they have had access as civil servants.

7 Civil servants must not take part in their official capacities in surveys or research projects, even attributably, if they deal with attitudes or opinions on political matters or matters of policy.



Loose Minute

Info-Records/3/7/8

30 March 2004

DAS (Sec) 3

ENQUIRY: DR DAVID CLARKE'S LETTER DATED 22 MARCH 2004

1. Thank you for sight of Dr Clarke's recent letter in which you seek an Info-Records1 input to two questions.

2. Three branches store files in the OWOB, DIS, AHB and DG Info (the latter being the official MOD sensitive archive). The DI 55 files are, I presume in the DIS archive, with the exception of D/DI55/108/15/1 Parts 21-25, dating from 1979 which are all with Records 1 awaiting transfer to TNA (TNA refs DEFE31/177-181).

3. What to say to Dr Clarke our standard line, slightly tweaked for Dr Clarke:

"The basement of the Old War Office Building houses some of the Ministry of Defence's archives, including some material already selected for transfer to The National Archives. Unfortunately, as a consequence of the discovery of asbestos in the vicinity of these archives access to the files stored at this location is no longer possible. In accordance with current health and safety regulations files have now been sealed in sacks and crated pending their re-location to another defence site. During the coming year the MOD will address the problem of how the information contained in these files may be safely accessed. However, at this point in the project it is not possible to state when, or in what form any of the files affected by the asbestos contamination problem will be available to the public."

4. On the question of the accelerated release of files already held by TNA. An exercise is already under way to consider the status of more than 100,000 files already at Kew for release in January 2005 or soon after (staff at Kew have privately suggested that a large scale once only release might not be manageable, therefore it is possible a phased release programme might be adopted). It is also important to state no final decision has been made and a decision is unlikely before July 2004 (the deadline set by TNA). Of the 1200 MOD files at Kew being considered under this initiative between 60-65 have been recalled for a more detailed examination. About 20 of the files cited by Dr Clarke in his letter were not included in TNA's accelerated release programme. They were missed due to a "programming error". They will now form part of a follow-up exercise! However, I do not anticipate claiming an FOI exemption for these files.

5. Of the 29 files cited in his letter 25 are already at Kew (being transferred at various dates ie 6 April 1999, 1 Feb 2000, 2 October 2001 and 21 August 2002).

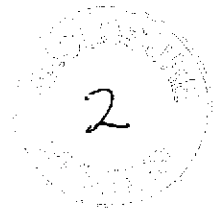
6. The four files still to be transferred: DEFE 24/1206, DEFE 24/1207, DEFE 71/34 & DEFE 71/35 transfer is by arrangement between MOD and TNA ie we're waiting for Kew to pick the files up! I therefore suggest that in your reply to Dr Clarke you flag up the four files awaiting transfer and suggest that it is hoped that these are at Kew before the end of the year.

7. Hope that this is helpful, but come back if further clarification is required.

Section 40

Info-Records1

Section 40



From: Section 40

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Directorate of Air Staff (Secretariat) 3  
Room 6/73, Metropole Building, Northumberland Avenue,  
LONDON WC2N 5BP

Telephone: (Direct dial) Section 40  
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000  
(Fax) Section 40

CHOs address: DAS-Sec3

E-Mail: [das-sec3@defence.mod.uk](mailto:das-sec3@defence.mod.uk)

**FAX MESSAGE**

**PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATELY TO** Section 40

**TO:** Section 40 - Info(Exp)-Records1

**SUBJECT:** Dr Clarke's request for information

**DATE:** 25 March 2004

**NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER:** 3

Section 40

Please see attached Dr Clarke's latest request for information which I received yesterday afternoon.

I would appreciate your advice as to a suitable form of words to his questions (as marked) on page 2 regarding the DI55 UFO files held in the OWO archive, and the future of the files held, but not yet released, in The National Archive. With regard to the latter, I know you told me that

TNA want to release these on 1 Jan 2005, but I was not sure whether this has actually been agreed with the MOD and if so, whether this is common knowledge yet.

As always, I am grateful for your help.

Section 40



Dr David Clarke

Section 40

Section 40

Directorate of Air Staff(Secretariat)3  
Ministry of Defence  
Room 6/73 Metropole Building  
Northumberland Avenue,  
London WC2N 5BP

22 March 2004

Dear Section 40

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Firstly, I wish to deal with your 23 December letter in which you provided an estimate for the cost of processing the list of files I wish to request under the Code of Practice for Access to Government Information. Having examined your list I now wish to place an order for the following:

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*UFO policy* estimate for processing: £60

No 10 (from your table): **D/DPR(RAF)326 Pt A** (1 file)  
*UFOs: Security Matters (UFO papers only)* estimate for processing £15.

This request is therefore for a batch of 7 files, at an estimated cost of £675. With the first four hours processing free, this leaves a total of £615. Please proceed on this basis.



In addition, although this file was not listed in my letter of 26 November 2003 I request an estimate for the supply of the file titled: **D/DI55/108/15/1 Pt 9: UFO incident reports – period not known**. Its title and chronological position in the list you supplied suggests it may contain information on reports referred to the Defence Intelligence staff before the current file series began in the 1970s. Please could you confirm the dates covered by the contents when you supply the estimate.

Further to the subject of DI 55 files, I was concerned to learn from your letter that the DI UFO policy files (?) are “currently held in an archive which is subject to asbestos contamination”. I understand this was one of the matters which my colleague **Section 40** raised with you during his recent visit to London. As historians of this subject we are concerned at the possibility that these files may be destroyed at some point in the future. I very much hope this can be avoided and ask for an assurance they will not be destroyed as they are of historical significance. Please could you supply further information as to which files are specifically affected, and what kind of action plan is being implemented to resolve the problem.

On a related matter you will recall that in my letter of 26 November last year I asked how the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act would affect the release of UFO-related records after 2005. I note that The National Archives guidelines on implementation of the FOIA state that as of 1 January 2005 the ‘30 year rule’ will cease to exist, therefore theoretically it will be possible for researchers to apply for access to files currently held at TNA which are less than 30 years old.

Therefore, I attach a list (Attachment 1) of 30 UFO files covering the years 1974-1978 that are currently held at TNA and are due for release between 2006-2009 under current legislation. If – as TNA states on its website - the 30 year rule will no longer be applicable from 1 January 2005 I wish to apply for access to these files as of that date. I have notified the TNA FOIA officer of my request in advance of the implementation of the Act. Please could you confirm that I will be able to have access to the files listed in Attachment 1 from 2005.

Further to the other matters concerning access to UFO records, and MoD policy on this subject, raised in my letter of 26 November and in earlier correspondence. I understand that my colleague **Section 40** raised the possibility of a formal interview with you and/or representatives of your secretariat during his visit to London on Tuesday, 9 March 2004 in the company of **Section 40** who wished to submit a photograph for analysis.

We fully understand that you are reluctant to agree to an formal interview on the grounds that what could be said might be taken out of context, or if publicized could lead to further requests from other interested parties and therefore add to your administrative burden. We wish to assure you that the proposed interview will be for the purposes of our on-going research only, and a transcript of what was said would be submitted for your approval immediately afterwards.

As **Section 40** clear on 9 March, a face to face interview allows both parties to expand on subjects in a way which is not possible via correspondence. According to your own records MoD have in fact granted a number of requests for formal interviews on several previous occasions, for example in 1956 **Section 40** in 1967 (with **Section 40** and **Section 40** **Section 40** 1968 **Section 40** and 1983 (Jenny Randles), therefore there are precedents. As far as I'm aware none of these earlier interviews have resulted in the publication of material that has been of embarrassment to MoD, therefore there should be no grounds for you to suspect our motives for making this request are anything other than research-related.

You will be fully aware, from our extensive correspondence, of my ongoing research into official investigations of UFO/aerial phenomena from 1950 to present. This research will continue for at least three years with academic support from the University of Sheffield as a result of the depth and breadth of the material we are gathering, and further requests for funding are currently under consideration. I feel it is essential at this stage for a face-to-face interview to take place in order to clear up some matters where ambiguity remains and to avoid unnecessary correspondence in future.

I understand that if we wish to pursue our request for an interview we should put this request in writing, stating our reasons (which I have outlined above), for submission to your head of department for approval. I therefore request a formal interview with representatives from your secretariat and/or other branches of MoD who are responsible for UFO-related matters. Persons present would be Dr David Clarke and **Section 40**. Further to this request I attach a copy of the letter, dated February 2003, from my head of department at the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition (NATCECT), University of Sheffield, endorsing my research and requesting MoD co-operation. I would be grateful if you could bring this to the attention of the person who is to authorize the proposed interview. If you would like me to submit an updated letter please let me know.

If you have any questions further to the proposal above, please let me know. In the meantime I wish to thank you for your assistance and look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Dr D.Clarke

**Section 40**

attachment 1:

Attachment 1

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AIR 2/18973	
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AIR 2/18975	
AIR 2/18976	
AIR 2/18977	
AIR 2/18978	
DEFE 24/977	UFOs: edited reports 1976-77 (release : 2008)
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# THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

## The National Centre for English Cultural Tradition

*J C Beal, Director*

*J D A Widdowson, Research Professor*

*D G Hey, Emeritus Professor (Names Project)*

*P S Smith, Associate Director (Memorial University, Newfoundland)*

*M H Jones, Assistant Director*

Sheffield  
S10 2TN

Tel: Section 40

Email: Section 40  
<http://www.shef.ac.uk/english/natcect/>

18th February, 2003.

### To whom it may concern:

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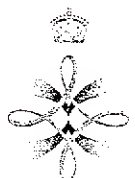
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Section 40

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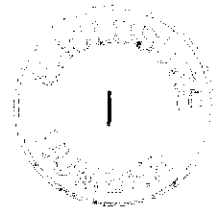
Director



THE QUEEN'S  
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FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION

1998 2000

Received 24 March 2004



**Dr David Clarke**

**Section 40**

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**Directorate of Air Staff(Secretariat)3  
Ministry of Defence  
Room 6/73 Metropole Building  
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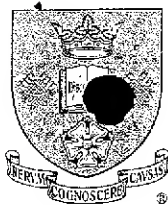
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## The National Centre for English Cultural Tradition

Sheffield

S10 2TN

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Dr Joan C. Beal  
Director



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